



SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF LBI
MONDAY JUNE 6, 2022

► **Update on JCTA inclusion on the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce (“SOCC”) website**

Lori Pepenella, SOCC’s Executive Director, has placed JCTA’s request to have its own tab on the SOCC website on the June agenda for her board to consider.

Presumably in exchange for saying “yes” to our request, Lori asked if JCTA members would be willing to include a link to the SOCC’s website on their taxpayer associations (“TAs”) websites. Three TAs have already said yes and generally everyone else is in favor, but those voting representatives want to run Lori’s request by their boards at their next board meetings.

► **Be Bright campaign from the LBI Chamber of Commerce**

JCTA is not participating this year. Donating money to fund the production of flyers that are more of an advertising piece than a conveyor of useful information and paying for safety bracelets that no one seems to wear is not a good use of our money.

We learned in this discussion, however, that LBT has produced an informative, good looking card about bike safety that is in use around the island. Another detail: About four years ago, Barnegat Light TA donated \$50 to the LBT police department and the police department took care of producing 3,000 of these bike safety cards for BLTA to distribute. We don’t need 3,000 cards, but let’s talk about distributing this card, if we can get them, at our Meet the Mayor and August membership meetings.

► **The Election to fill the unexpired term of JCTA president** John Fiore, President of Brant Beach TA, was elected to complete the unexpired term of Barbara Truncellito.

► **Reports from the priority committees**

☆ **Beach Erosion / Replenishment** It is the intention of the committee to do two things this year:

1) To launch a campaign asking all LBI property owner to lobby their congressional representative for federal funding for LBI beach replenishment.¹ The committee will be making the following recommendations: 1) Property owners make an appointment with their representatives and go speak with them; and 2) These visits should not be limited to only those who represent LBI in Congress because having a push from multiple representatives state-wide would be the most effective in getting attention to LBI’s needs.

2) To produce something that can be widely distributed to educate people about the importance of the dunes on LBI. Educating renters is particularly important and presents its own set of challenges, which the committee is working to address.

¹ Here’s the problem in a nutshell: The Army Corps of Engineers years ago approved the 7-year replenishment schedule into perpetuity, but no money has been budgeted to do that.

☆ **Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety**

This committee has met with all the police chiefs in all of the towns on the island to engage them in discussions about bike and pedestrian safety. All of the chiefs were very happy to speak with a well-prepared, caring group of property owners who share their mutual concern for pedestrian and cyclist safety.

These meetings generated a lot of suggestions and ideas about actions that could be taken to increase bike and pedestrian safety on the island. The committee will consider all of these ideas and come back with recommendations of next action steps.

☆ **First Responder Support**

This committee does a very good job beating the drum to keep people alert to the very dire problem we have on the island (and all communities have nationally), which is the serious lack of volunteers in our fire companies and emergency medical and first aid squads.

No fire company on the island is fully staffed or comfortable with the number of people they have. The statistics are staggering: SB Volunteer Fire Company receives 300 calls per year, and 50% of those happen within four months.

One of the ideas that the committee is pursuing is to work with the Southern Regional School District to create a two-year curriculum so that upon graduation, graduating seniors would be certified and licensed by the state and then they could serve as a volunteer for any ambulance service.

☆ **Flooding**

The committee met with Angela Andersen, by title the LBT Recycling/Sustainability Director, but if you dig into anything related to protecting the island or its restoration, you will find Angela involved somehow. An indispensable part of the LBT administrative team, she is also the Township's grant writer and it was in that capacity that she met with this committee to share her wisdom about obtaining funding.

The committee's next step is to gather information about capital improvements related to flooding from all of the island's municipalities so when committee members begin their work with town officials, they can have a comprehensive, coordinated approach.

☆ **Offshore Wind Farms**

The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up issue #2 has been sent to all JCTA members for posting on their websites and distribution to their members through their regular communication channels. Ann is chair of the committee and Art Blattner is an active, participating member.

☆ **Taxes** There was no discussion about this committee and its future.

▶ **Quick Hits**

❖ Save Barnegat Bay is presenting their documentary film Drift and is looking to make presentations to organizations who are interested. The film has been separated into little modules that might lend itself more readily to presentations in front of groups who are looking for a shorter program instead of a feature length documentary. Check it out on the website: <https://www.savebarnegatbay.org/educate/drift-celebrating-50-years-of-save-barnegat-bay/>

❖ *ReClam the Bay* This organization is happy to come to any meeting with our membership to talk about what they do and what they have accomplished.

If we are interested in having making arrangements for a program with a representative of either organization, we can contact ReClam's president Bill Walsh. Ann has his contact information.