

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

High Bar Harbor Taxpayers Association

June 11, 2022

Meeting Called to Order by Ken King / Pledge of Allegiance

Officers and Trustees introduced. Due to all officers functioning in the “acting” capacity, election was moved to the beginning of the meeting. The entire ballot was approved with no dissenting votes.

President, Joanne Veech Introduced

- Informed attendees that meeting was being recorded.
- Trustees not functioning in the “acting” capacity introduced themselves.
- Special thanks to Marcia Wilkof who will be coming off the board after many years of service. As a “thank you”, a monetary donation was made in her honor to The Terrapin Nesting Project.
- Special thanks to community members and board members that volunteered throughout the year:
 - o Thanks to those that attended LBT Commissioner’s meetings, made calls to the township and sent emails over concerns with the “Certificate of Occupancy and Bulkhead Change Ordinance” and the “Water and Sewer Ordinance”. You aided in rescinding of both ordinances, saving residents money and unnecessary construction.
 - o Thanks to those that attended the “Resilience LBI” meetings, the group is looking at ways to help LBI with flooding issues.
 - o Thanks to the 50+ volunteers that helped with the post Tornado Clean-Up.
 - o Thanks to the two dozen members that volunteered to clean up the 20th Street Sedge over Memorial Day weekend.
- Our number one priority is Dredging. The board has engaged the Township to take soundings and soil samples of our 3 lagoon access points. Safety is the main issue and the Dredging Committee will provide their report later in the meeting. Stake channel dredging will also be discussed.
- Contact has been made with the Barnegat Light State Park, requesting that the path to the dike be trimmed.
- We have launched our association’s website, highbarharbor.org. Everything we do is posted on the website and you can even pay your dues online.
- Last year we had approximately 200 HBHTA members and this year we are targeting 300 members.
- Our website has a photo section and we welcome your community photos. Please forward photos to hbhtaonlbi@gmail.com.
- Please use our email address to communicate with the Board on any issues.
- Both Karen (VP) and Joanne attend the monthly Joint Council of LBI Taxpayers Association (JCTA), as well as the LBT’s public meetings. All notes are published on our

website. The JCTA priorities include beach replenishment, bike and pedestrian safety, first responders, offshore wind, and island flooding.

- We formed nine permanent committees that will present shortly.
- A motion was called to approve last year's minutes. Motion voiced to approve and David Smith (49 Auburn) seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer, Joe DeLuca Introduced

- All financial data is published on our website.
- Historical data is listed for reference. Last year we ended the year with approximately \$13,000. Expenses are typically pretty constant; however, this year we are making some significant investments including our website, sound machine, permanent signs, library exchange box, etc. Projecting to bring in approximately \$9,000 in dues and projecting to spend approximately \$10,000 this year. Typically the HBHTA is run break even. We are a healthy organization and we thank you for your membership.

Social Committee Chairperson, Marielaine Mammon Introduced

- Activities are offered to bring together residents. Four main activities this year including:
 - o Summer Kick Off Block Party, June 11 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM at Sunset Park.
 - o Boat Parade on July 3rd
 - § Theme Contest had 10 entries. Two winners with "Pirate" theme. Congratulations Barbara Randa and Diana Smith. Both will win a \$25 gift card to Kubel's or Off the Hook.
 - o Children's Golf Tournament at Jen's Links on August 7th.
 - o Sunset Social on August 27th.

Communications Chairperson, Agnes Poltorak-Lewis Introduced

- Dare Lewis was our website developer . . . thank you!
- Website averages 200 visitors per month.
- Will continue to develop content for the website, posting articles that affect LBI, including wind and environmental issues.

Membership Chairperson, Joe DeLuca Introduced

- Website setup with electronic membership payment and the ability to accept donations via credit card, PayPal, and Venmo.
- Membership dues increased from \$25 to \$35 as we anticipated spending additional money in 2022 on our infrastructure and we anticipate rising costs. This is also our first increase in 5 years.
- YTD 71% of our community has paid their dues online. In past years 80% - 90% came in via check or cash at our Annual Meeting.
- Fun fact . . . Albright paid 34% of their dues online versus Amherst and Collier who paid 64% of their dues online.
- 95% of the donations we have received have been through online payments. 30% of all members have also donated to the HBHTA, with the average donation being approximately \$45

Parks and Signs Chairperson, Annie Jordan Introduced

- Township has restrung our flagpoles, removed dead trees from Triangle Park, and built new arbors at Triangle Park.
- The garden bed at the Welcome Sign was revamped with new plantings and will be decorated for major holidays.
- Children's Park has new playground equipment and mulch
- The clam shell at Triangle Park is being repainted by the original artist and HBH resident Susan Hennelly.
- A Free Library will be installed at Triangle Park.
- Committee is hoping to start a "Garden Club". If you are interested, contact us via the website.

Merchandise Committee Member, Ellen Buckley Introduced

- Committee is working with Viking Outfitters in Viking Village on HBH merchandise; New merchandise is available (sweatshirts and hats).
- Some performance wear is still available along with hats and sweatshirts.
- Merchandise link is on our website.
- HBH flags are available for purchase, directly from the HBHTA, not Viking Outfitters.

Bylaws Committee Chairperson, Jo Pepper Introduced

- Bylaws have been updated and posted on our website.
- Priority was to clean them up, make them clearer, and reflective of our current operation.
- Changed wording referencing membership from "property owner" to "real estate taxpayer" to ensure we are inclusive of all owners.
- Asked for Motion to Approve. John Danzeisen (2 Meadow Lane) moved that Bylaws be approved as submitted, 2nd David Smith (49 Auburn) and 3rd Kathleen Feuerstein (53 Butler). Membership approved with no objections.

Audit Committee Chairperson, Karen Ensslen Introduced

- Books of HBHTA were reviewed by two outside auditors.
- Approximately 57% of all expenses were audited through random sampling.
- Books were found to be in order. Receipts and expenditures were accurately posted and all financial documents were provided as requested.

Dredging Committee Chairperson, Tom DeBenedictis Introduced

- Karen Ensslen started with an update on Stake Dredging, the area from the end of Butler Road to the north end of Dike.
 - o In 2017 the NJDOT announced a project to dredge HBH stakes. Contractor ran out of time and a waiver to finish work was not granted.
 - o Told at Commissioner's Meeting that HBH stakes were "on the list" to be dredged.
 - o HBHTA contacted NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources (Bill Henderson) directly and was told no such list existed and there were no plans to dredge the HBH stakes.

- o Temporary patch suggested was to record shallow areas within the stakes with GPS coordinates and water depth, reporting that data back to the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources. The DOT will then come out and reposition the stakes to deep water.
 - o As deep water becomes more difficult to find, that will signal the DOT that the HBH Channel is ready to be dredged.
 - o If residents find shallow areas in the stakes, please forward the GPS coordinates and depth to hbhtaonlbi.com and we will funnel the information to Bill Henderson.
- Tom DeBenedictis Dredging Report
 - o Three main lagoon access points have shoaling issues and needs dredging immediately, for safety reasons.
 - o Soundings and soil sampling completed by Township Engineer, Frank Little, at township expense.
 - o Printout of soundings and data was available for review after the meeting and will be available via email if requested.
 - o Amount of dredge material has been quantified in cubic yards and the soil analysis has been confirmed as 90% silt.
 - o Soil analysis determines where the material can be disposed of. The dike was named as a possible dredge spoil site as part of Takings Lawsuit of Desiderio. Most likely the dredge spoils will have to be trucked off the island which will be expensive.
 - o Having conversations with various organizations about putting back the soil into the sedge islands, but that is not a short term solution.
 - o Next step is to get the permitting completed and understand how the dredging will be funded.
 - o Shoaling near homeowner docks will not be included on this permit.
 - o Question –
 - § Mimi Petka (6 Collier) – Expressed concern that dredge spoils will be placed on the sedge area behind Collier. Confirmed that was highly unlikely.

Thanks to Lana Major and Lara Addiego for managing our Annual Meeting!

Old Business

- Sybil Kleinfeld (42 Butler) – Why was Past President, Eileen Schwartz, not recognized?
 - o Before an answer could be given Eileen Schwartz (30 Butler) stood up and spoke.
 - § She congratulated the Board on a job well done.
 - Joanne Veech apologized for omission.

New Business

- Zee Pongonis (22 Antioch) – Please watch your speed around the No Wake barrels!
- Mimi Petka (6 Collier) – Speeding issue on Sunset. Could we put up more signs?

- Mimi Petka (6 Collier) – Can anything be done regarding short term rentals?
- Vilma Applegate (58 Antioch) – Boat wake is a major issue!
- Kathleen (address unknown) – Why are there no speed bumps on Sunset?
- Craig (Albright) – Cameras at Arnold/Auburn. Is a light being installed? No, they are security cameras for the Supreme Court Justice who has a home in HBH.
- Don Miller (9 Collier) – Speeding on Sunset is a major issue! He used to cut corner grass so there are no accidents, even though it's the township's responsibility. Windmills are no good!
- Katherine (unknown address) – Acknowledged Don Miller is cutting the grass when it is the township's responsibility.
- Don Miller (9 Collier) – Tired of calling cops on speeders. Also, unmowed lots and the access road to 20th Street is a “fire hazard”. Ticks are terrible! Suggested control burn on dike to get rid of ticks.
- Name & Address Unknown – At JCTA meetings is there concern with the Wind Farms? JCTA puts out monthly information on Wind, but the JCTA does not take a position.
- Sam Gordon (80 Auburn) – Traffic studies suggest that there is a direct correlation between the width of a road and speeding. Would the township consider narrowing Sunset?
- Suzzane DeLuca (34 Butler) – Could we make the north side of Arnold Blvd. “No Parking” as trucks are chewing up the side of the road? Because it is a county road, you cannot prohibit parking.
- Name Unknown (30 Adrian) – Is there concern that the new water meters are not working properly as my first bill this year was much higher than last year? Explained new rates and directed property owners to Water Q&A on the website.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting by David Smith (49 Auburn), second by Skip Veech (1 Albright).