

HBHTA Summer Newsletter 2022



High Bar Harbor Neighbors,

We are sliding into the end of summer and I wanted to take a few minutes to update everyone on what your Taxpayers Association has been working on and our recent achievements.

In our 2021 survey you indicated that dredging was the most important issue that we as an Association should address. Our high property values are dependent on water access. We made that a priority and I'm proud to say that we have made progress. **Our Chairman's full Dredging Report is at the end of this newsletter and it is a must read!**

Work continues on restoring the south side of **20th street** to its natural state prior to the County's disturbance of the grass and bushes. Garbage trucks, commercial vehicles, construction vehicles, etc. repeatedly use this area to temporarily park while leaving behind ruts in the road and oil. The County Engineer is working with us on potential solutions.

- We reported to the County Engineer that the County DPW was dumping road kill and other dead animals into the bushes behind the disturbed area on the south side of 20th Street. We have been assured by the County that they have put an end to this practice.

Our **new website highbarharbor.org** hosts documents to keep you abreast of issues that affect our community:

- Wind Farms in documents called "Round Ups"
- Progress on dredging efforts
- Minutes from Long Beach Township's monthly Commissioners Meetings
- Minutes from the Joint Council of Taxpayer Association (JCTA) monthly meetings. One of the JCTA priorities is to address the dwindling number of firefighters and EMS on LBI. See the attached ad, which will appear in this week's Sandpaper, and consider supporting the Barnegat Light firefighters and EMS.
- High Bar Harbor Community Events, and much more.

We have formed a new **Roadways/Waterways/Pathways Committee** to address speeding, maintenance, and other issues on our roads, waterways and the Dike beach. We

are currently working with the county and township to get radar speed signs installed on Arnold Blvd. and Sunset Blvd.

We have received reports that there are some neighbors in HBH not acting neighborly. If you have issues, please call the **LBT Police Department at 609-494-3322**. Below, you will find a copy of the **LBT Ordinance 127-10** regarding noise:

§ 127-10. Public health nuisances.

A. All nuisances set forth in Section II of the Health Code are prohibited public health nuisances.

B. It shall be unlawful for a person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary, or unusual noises or any noise which does or is likely to annoy, disturb, injure, or endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others. No person shall cause to be made, directly or indirectly, any loud noise which disturbs, injures, or endangers the health, comfort, safety, or welfare of others.

(1) When an officer can hear plainly audible music or other sound at a distance of 100 feet beyond the property line of the noise-generating property between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday, or any unreasonable sound at or within a complainant's property between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday, there is a violation.

C. No person shall operate or use radio, television, or any other sound-producing instrument, device, or apparatus in such a manner that will disturb the rest or repose of any person or persons in his, her or their place of abode or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle, chamber or premises in or at which such manner or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto.

Summer Happenings

- We held a successful June Summer Kickoff Block Party at Sunset Park with over 60 High Bar Harbor residents enjoying food, drinks, music, and a complimentary soft serve ice cream truck.
- Our Pirate Themed Boat Parade had 17 decorated boats with lots of folks cheering the boats from their yards and Sunset Park. Thanks to everyone that participated!
- We hope you will join us at our Kid's Golf Tournament at Jen's Link on Sunday, August 7th, our final Sunset Social on August 27th, and our Community Clean-Up on Saturday, October 22nd.
- High Bar Harbor merchandise has been selling well and we just placed an order for additional flags. Merchandise will be available at both of our August events.

- HBH residents in need of beach assistance can contact the township to use a “GATOR” (large chair with wheels). More information and the number to call can be found on the Township site: <https://www.longbeachtownship.com/transportation/>

Our **membership drive** continues with our “Door to Door” campaign. YTD we have 258 members out of 382 households (68%). Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join as there is power in numbers!

That’s all for now. Enjoy the rest of your summer and keep in touch with us by emailing us at hbhtaonlbi@gmail.com. We’d love to hear from you!

Joanne Veech
President, High Bar Harbor Taxpayers Association

Dredging Report

The dredging committee has been active since our annual meeting. On July 19th our committee met with Mr. Frank Little, Long Beach Township’s Engineer and our primary contact for dredging. The Township is focusing on the safety of the three main openings of the High Bar Harbor lagoon system. The Township has funded the soil sample study to determine the composition of the material, the soundings to determine the quantity of material to be removed, and all permitting costs.

Approximately 3,800 cubic yards of material (90% silt/10% sand) will need to be removed. Currently, the plan is to place the dredge spoils on a barge and deposit them on land to dewater so that they can be removed by truck either to a landfill or an abandoned sand mine quarry.

- Alternate ideas include deposition of the dredge spoils on the Dike. In the lawsuit settlement of Desiderio v NJDEP the dike was identified as a dredge spoil site for High Bar Harbor’s lagoon maintenance. We are working to obtain a copy of the original settlement. We understand the rules for dredge-spoil deposition may have changed, potentially making this a mute point.
- Other ideas such as thin layer deposition on the bay’s sedge islands are being evaluated. Since the size of our project is relatively small it might not be ideal to wait for the DEP approval, which may take many years.

My latest conversation with Mr. Little confirms the dredging permit will be submitted this week. The Township will bid the work once the permit is issued. The anticipated project cost will be approximately \$400,000.

On July 26th I met with Mayor Mancini to discuss the High Bar Harbor dredging project.

- Mayor Mancini stated the Township will not fund the physical dredging and disposal of the dredge spoils but will provide an assessment method for affected properties to fund the project over a multiyear period.
- It is expected that all properties that are lagoons with bay access via one of these three openings will share in the expense. If we assume the current estimate of \$400,000 split between 200 lagoon properties, the total cost per property would be \$2,000 assessed over a multiyear period.
- In addition, Mayor Mancini committed to contacting State Senator Connors to help us acquire the Desiderio v NJDEP lawsuit documents as mentioned earlier.

The permitting process will take 6 months to a year from the time it is received by the DEP. We will continue to issue updates as events occur.

Submitted by:

Thomas DeBenedictis, MD, FACS, Chairman of the HBHTA Dredging Committee.