



**SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF LBI
AUGUST 1, 2022**

► **Gift to St. Francis Parish to honor Barbara Truncellito**

JCTA members unanimously agreed to purchase a tree to be planted at St. Clare's, Barbara's church of choice and in whose activities she was often involved. In addition, we shall pay for having an appropriate plaque made that identifies the site and honors Barbara.

► **Update on *The Sandpaper* ad in support of first responders**

The ad ran, as promised, in the August 3 issue of *The Sandpaper* (page 23 of the first section). Editors of *The Sandpaper* have stated that they want to have future articles written about our first responder organizations. We will continue to work closely with the editors.

Everyone in the first responder organizations with whom JCTA representatives have met have been very positive about the ad and thankful for the support of all of the island's taxpayer and property owners associations.

We discussed other actions that each taxpayer and property owners association could do to further support these emergency response units. The First Responder Committee will continue to discuss those options and craft recommendations.

► **Southern Regional School District ("SRDS") tax situation update**

The biggest point of contention in this complicated issue is that LBI taxpayers contribute, through taxes, 80% of the funding for this school district, but only have one-third of the seats on the SRSD school board. Therefore, our voices can be, and are frequently, rendered moot.

Taxation without representation is the issue.

We agreed to go back to our respective boards and talk about some options and gather opinions from other board members. For example, would each association be willing to send a letter to the governor and other appropriate government officials in which the problem is stated and next steps are suggested? Would all the associations' presidents be willing to sign one letter from the entire JCTA with the same message? We agreed that if we produce a letter that is signed by each one of our member associations' presidents, it sends a message that this issue is an important one and you are not going to ignore any of us.

► **Collaboration with Alliance for a Living Ocean (ALO) clean up**

October 22 is the date that ALO and Clean Ocean Action are having their cleanup. ALO is interested in collaborating with all the taxpayer and property owners associations on the island and they are willing to set up a few different stations around the island where volunteers can grab forms and clean up tools.

Representatives from some taxpayer associations have already been in touch with ALO about participating in the cleanup, which is fine. Karen Ensslen from High Bar Harbor Taxpayer Association has volunteered to be the central hub of information about who is participating, volunteer stations, etc. It would be appreciated if whomever is coordinating this effort in

each taxpayer and property owners association could let Karen know what is going on. Each association's JCTA representative has Karen's contact information.

▶ **Convene a "JCTA Summit"** to discuss each association's best practices around increasing membership & community involvement? There was a resounding "Yes" in favor of having this meeting. We plan to convene to discuss these topics in October.

▶ **Reports from the priority committees**

☆ **Beach Erosion / Replenishment** The committee chair spoke with Tom MacArthur, who was the U.S. Representative for the 3rd congressional district from 2015 – 2019, about some of the committee's letter writing ideas. It was Mr. MacArthur's opinion that asking individuals to write to congressional representatives requesting more funds for beach replenishment would not be a successful tactic. Instead, he suggested that one letter from the JCTA or a letter from each taxpayer or property owners association sent *en masse* would be more effective.

The committee is in the process of drafting such letter and investigating how to get e-signatures for it, if they decide to recommend that route. It would be very impactful and garner attention if there were several thousand signatures. Recommendations from the committee will be forthcoming.

It had been previously stated that the announced \$32M allocated for beach replenishment by the Army Corps of Engineers ("ACOE") is for the entire ACOE Philadelphia region, of which LBI is a part, not just for replenishment on LBI. It has been confirmed, however, that this assumption is NOT correct. This week, Haddon Antonucci, Representative Van Drew's aide, confirmed the \$32M in the ACOE budget for the next fiscal year (2023-2024) was exclusively for LBI. Haddon's understanding is the Army Corps feels this is adequate for the work we will need. He also expects this to be what we will see in the final budget bill that is passed.

☆ **Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety** Things are moving along nicely and in a typical way, given the number of people on the island. The police are doing their best to keep everything under control and to redirect people when they are observed doing something wrong or unsafely.

☆ **First Responder Support** Covered above

☆ **Flooding** The next meeting of the Flooding Committee is scheduled for August 9; the previously scheduled meeting in July was postponed when Resilient LBI ("R-LBI") announced that its final meeting would be July 26. In that meeting, R-LBI distributed a draft of their final recommendations and a list of projects that, if implemented, could significantly combat flooding on the island. In their August meeting, the Flooding Committee will review these action plans and then be positioned to make recommendations about them.

☆ **Offshore Wind Farms** The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up #4 will be ready for distribution to the JCTA representatives Monday August 8.

Topics covered in this issue are questions from readers prompted by the June 29 article in *The Sandpaper* about the visibility of the wind turbines, the approval process for Atlantic Shore's Environmental Impact Statement and the extension of the deadline to review of the Environmental Impact Statement for Ocean Wind 1.

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