

2024 High Bar Harbor Annual Meeting Agenda

May 25, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance led by Joanne Veech, President

Joanne introduced the Officers and Board of Trustees.

President's Opening Remarks

- Attendees were thanked for attending and for the generous donations to the Taxpayers Association.
- Officers and the Board of Trustees were thanked for the work done for High Bar, which has benefited the community. A few members' terms are ending, and they will leave the board. Joanne personally thanked them for all their support and for agreeing to work with the new board members to ensure a smooth transition.
- Joanne stated that the Board of Trustees, as she is, are volunteers. They all do their best to accomplish good things for our community. If anyone is interested in joining, please let any Trustee know.
- All attendees took a moment to remember all our brave men and women who have served in the military for the freedoms we enjoy.
- There has been a lot of progress this past year. Joanne then shared examples of the work done and reminded everyone that this information has been published in the quarterly newsletters.
 - The **LBT project of dredging** the three lagoon access areas has been completed. In June, the township will calculate the total cost and divide it by the 236 impacted property owners. Those impacted will have three years to pay their assessment. The township will notify the property owners when a public hearing occurs in June. Estimated costs per property owner will be around \$2400.
 - **Triangle Park** revitalization is underway. The township will open it when the hydroseeding has produced grass that can be walked on, which is anticipated in July. A grand opening is planned for some time in July/August.
 - A special thanks to Jay Leister, HBHTA Board Member, and David Rubin, HBH resident with landscape design and architecture backgrounds, for their drawings and insight on Triangle Park.
 - There will be a place for children to play,
 - An upgraded Bocce court,
 - A place for residents to take refuge from the sun,
 - Plants and flower gardens with plantings native to the area,
 - An outdoor water fountain with a dog water bowl,
 - A place for children to park their bikes as they wait for the school bus,
 - A flag pole,
 - Our clam,
 - A lending library and more.

- The township has agreed to the following:
 - New topsoil to be spread across the entire park; and hydroseeding
 - Soil to be placed where trees and flowers will be planted
 - New plantings on the back side of the park
 - New fencing
 - New plantings along the fencing
 - Three pergolas with seating placed on decking
 - A water hose bib near the water fountain
 - The Bocce court is to be redone with turf in the Fall
 - And thanks to Linda and Dave Ramsey, who donated a Free Library that is presently at Sunset Park!
- o The township is currently working on the project, and you will see the improvements all around that area, including the asphalt patching on the corner of Sunset and Arnold.
- o Please comply with the LBT request to stay off the grass while it takes root. When the grand opening date is set, an email blast will go out.
- o The Association has a little over \$20,000 in the bank. While the township is making improvements to the park, additional plantings, etc., may be needed.
- HBHTA also plans to buy a plaque to commemorate the park's revitalization. The township agreed to insert a bronze type of plaque into a large stone they would place in the park.
- o Joanne then introduced the landscape architect working on the project, David Rubin, who shared that:
 - o He is excited that the park is being revitalized and anticipates significant planting of native and non-invasive plants. He asked if there were residents who would be interested in helping him plant some additional plants, some of which will come from his personal garden. If you like to plant or want to learn about the experience of planting or horticulture, he would be happy to have assistance when the time is right. Also, if you have significant gardens being divided up this year and they are resilient plants (do well in this environment and do not need a lot of water), he will happily adopt them and use them at the park.
 - o There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back.
 - o Someone asked about hydrangeas. He said maybe it depends upon the amount of soil, etc. Therefore, at this point it is conditional.
- o **The channel markers:** Joanne has personally been working with members of the NJDEP Coastal Engineering Aids and Navigation, State Senators, State Assembly members, and the NJDEP Commissioner to encourage them to provide more manpower and funding so channel markers can be placed up and down the Jersey coast very early, in the March / April timeframe.
 - She made a plea on the HBH residents' behalf that we are a fishing hamlet, and the safety of NJ residents should come first.

- After being out on the water two weeks ago, it appears all the sticks have been put in.
- **Road Safety** is an ongoing issue in HBH, with residents complaining of speeding on Arnold Blvd. and Sunset Blvd. The township has increased patrols in High Bar, set up electronic speed signs, and marked out a pedestrian and bike lane on Sunset Blvd. to slow down traffic and keep pedestrians safe.
- The **HBH sign** needs a total makeover/refurbishment. We will investigate the best option.
- On the way out, hats for \$25 and HBH Flags for \$50 are available for purchase. Please see Ellen.
- **Snowflakes** are coming to HBH! For those who don't come down in December/January, most towns have snowflakes on their light poles to celebrate the holidays.
 - The board approved buying a snowflake, and the township said if we bought another one, they would buy one as well, for a total of three for High Bar.
- Joanne asked for questions. None were asked.
- The board will stay after the meeting officially adjourns to discuss anything with you.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The nomination chair shared that:

- Five HBH residents, two of whom are officers, have volunteered to become new board members. Nomination information was left on the sign-in table.
- Each nominee was introduced, and a summary of their interests was read. Michele Tropiano, Bill Rue, John Voinski; trustees. Scott Bloor Vice President and Ron Melanson Communications Director.
- Tom DeBenidictus made a motion to approve the new board members. Ken King seconded. Motion carried. Welcome to the board!
- There is still one open board seat. If interested, please send your interest to HBHTA@highbarharbor.org

Review and acceptance of the minutes of the previous annual

- Last year's minutes have been posted on the website, and several copies were left on the back table. A motion to approve the minutes from May 27, 2023, was made by Tom DeBenidictus. Seconded by Pete Baragona. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report and Audit

- Budget information was printed and available to all. Last year's budget and actual expenses were provided as the new budget for this year. The actual budget shows \$14.6 thousand, and we netted about \$14.8. The budget is designed so we break even. Last year there was a small surplus, a little over \$3000. The board tries to budget conservatively on an expense and revenue basis. The budget does not include some of the things we discussed earlier, including the additional amounts for Triangle Park and the Welcome sign. There is a small amount of money budgeted for those, but there may be a need for an additional capital expense. We ended the year with over \$20,000 in cash in the bank and will use some for those bigger projects.
- A copy of the audit was also provided. Two outside auditors, volunteers with finance/accounting backgrounds, conduct the annual audit. This year, again, everything was in order.
- The treasurer asked for questions.
 - One resident asked if a donation could be made specifically for the park. The answer was yes.
 - HBHTA periodically makes donations to various groups, such as first responders and other charities, but specific donations can also be made.
- Joanne shared some information about JCTA (Joint Council of Taxpayer Associations)

Committee Reports

- Social Committee: Come join in the fun and meet your neighbors!
 - Summer Kick-Off will be held at Sunset Park on June 22, from 5 - 8.
 - Ice cream truck, pizza, snacks, non-alcoholic drinks. BYO.
 - The Fourth of July Boat Parade is back! July 4, 4:45.
 - We asked for theme ideas and received a few. Joanne Petrik is the winner, and we have chosen a Jimmy Buffet / Island theme, which we are calling Parrotheads in High Bar Harbor. She won a \$50 Visa card. Thank you, Joanne!
 - Children's Golf Tournament
 - August 4, 10:15. Jen's Links Barnegat Light. Pre-registration
 - End of Summer Social will be August 24, 5 - 8 at the Barnegat Light Firehouse.
 - Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages, BYO.
 - Please put these on your calendars and watch for email reminders!
- Communications -
 - The new **HBHTA Email Address** is HBHTA@highbarharbor.org. Inquiries and comments are encouraged.
 - There is a sign-up sheet for anyone who wants to volunteer, or if you'd like, please email us your interest. One board seat is open.
 - The **website** is also easy to remember: www.highbarharbor.org. All newsletters, announcements, dates, and information are posted there.
 - Barnegat Light events will also be posted.

- **Membership -**
 - We are a community of caring people, and it showed up last year in our **membership numbers**.
 - Over 76% joined our Association last year. This year, 190 property owners have joined our association to date (without those who have paid at the door) out of **378**. We anticipate that more will join.
 - The membership chair also thanked members for paying their dues and especially thanked those who made additional contributions.
- **There was no Old or New Business brought to the floor.**
- **Questions, Answers, Comments?**

- **Question:**

1. Carol Fishman asked if there had been any progress on improving the channel. Joe DeLuca discussed the issues and information that he has researched on this concern. He asked for others who were interested to see him after the meeting for contact information so they could work together.

Motion to Adjourn

David Smith, 54 Auburn made a motion to adjourn at approximately 10:30 AM
Tom DeBenedictus seconded