

**2026 High Bar Harbor Taxpayers Association  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
May 23, 2026 - BL Firehouse  
58 in attendance**

**Call To Order** at 9:35 AM and **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Scott Bloor, President

- Scott then gave a few Brief Opening Remarks and thanked all for coming

**Introduction of the Officers and Board of Trustees** – Scott Bloor

- Each board member in attendance introduced themselves

**Review & Acceptance of Last Annual Meeting Minutes (2025)** - Scott Bloor

- 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 31, 2025, was made by Karen Ensslen Larson. Carol Fishman seconded. Motion carried.

**Election of Officers & Trustees** - Jo Pepper and Scott Bloor

- Scott thanked board members who are leaving the board for all their time, work and efforts on behalf of the HBHTA:
  - Tom Debenedictis, Trustee. Tom has been instrumental in the dredging project that took place a year or two ago and has been a regular attendee at the Joint Council of Taxpayers Association Meetings for HBHTA.
  - Joe DeLuca who is leaving the position of Treasurer, but not the board. He has been the Treasurer for more than 10 years and managed the finances carefully and with discretion.
  - Ron Melanson, Communications Director. He handled all communications and helped the President in many ways.
- Jo Pepper introduced the ballot of names to the membership which included Officer (2 years): Scott Bloor, President, Tom Ritter, Treasurer and Sharon Bahr, Communications Director. Trustee (3 years): Ellen Buckley, Marielaine Mammon, Joe DeLuca.
- Joanne Veech made a motion to approve the ballot of names. Clare Baragona seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Joe Deluca

- Budget information was printed and available to all
- The beginning of the year cash balance was \$20,449 and the ending balance \$22,865.

- We try to run the organization on a break-even basis however this past year we made \$2,416.
- The monthly breakdown of income and expenses for the year shows that we brought in \$11,960 and spent \$9,544. Member donations average about \$35-\$40 above membership dues. There are about 90 people who donate over and above the annual dues. Thank you.
- Proposed revenue budgeted at \$11,375
- On the expense side there are two categories highlighted in the report. They are donations/charities and signs/ flagpoles landscaping maintenance. Funds are needed to help take care of the playground, Triangle Park and common areas.
- Financials have been audited and the report is part of the budget packet available. Books, records and bank statements are in good order and tie back to bank statements.
- Motion was made by Pete Baragona to accept the new budget as written. Ken King seconded. Motion carried.

#### **President's Report - Scott Bloor**

- Scott recapped some of the items that the HBHTA was able to accomplish since the last annual meeting. These included but are not limited to:
  - The pump house on the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Arnold. This was revitalized with new fencing and plants. Board members working with Keith Marcoon from the Ocean County Municipal Utilities Authority made it happen.
  - Triangle Park. Owned by Long Beach Township who keeps it mowed. The rest of the maintenance is up to the HBHTA board and community. This admittedly has required a lot of volunteer time to keep it maintained. The board is presently looking into the installation of a sprinkler system to keep the plants alive and looking good.
  - Stick placement in High Bar Channel. Scott recently spoke to William Sloane, the individual with the state who oversees this, and he indicated that the sticks should be placed in one to two weeks. In conjunction with this is the shoaling that has taken place in Double Creek channel which leads out into the bay. In certain areas, the channel is almost unpassable at low tide and officials suggest using Oyster Creek Channel instead until the problem is fixed. The state is working on a solution.
  - HBHTA merchandise. The board is looking at a creative solution to providing swag to our members. This took a bit longer than expected, however look for an e-blast soon with the particulars. There will be High Bar Harbor t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts and some other items in the next couple of months for purchase.

- Community interest survey. This survey was sent out to all. The response was very high – 42%. One of the overwhelming requests was for more social events where residents would have a chance to meet their neighbors.

### **Signs and Parks and Triangle Park Update - Brian Heffernan**

- Brian thanked David Rubin for all his support and efforts at Triangle Park. David has gone above and beyond and pours his heart and soul into making the park look beautiful. Help continues to be needed, and the friends of Triangle Park are looking for additional volunteers to help maintain the park. A community cleanup day is planned on June 5 at 8:30 to clean up trash on 20<sup>th</sup> street and to do weeding in the park.
- A new waterproof box and new toys to play with were purchased and placed near the bocce court.
- Scott is meeting with the mayor to request financial help with the installation of a sprinkler system for watering as it can take up to 2 hours to do it manually.
- Two new book boxes (1 for children and 1 for adult books) were added and located at Triangle Park.
- A Sandpaper newspaper box was requested and added near Triangle Park.
- The entrance sign has been maintained and decorated during the seasons. Soon more dirt and mulch will be added with additional grasses which will not require much watering.
- The signs at Sunset Park (playground) are being investigated for upgrades. There has been discussion with the township about the name of the children's park (we/ many of us always referred to it as Sunset Park).
- The township plans to add more mulch to the children's playground.

### **Pump House Beautification - Joanne Veech**

- As mentioned by Scott, the pump house area has been revitalized. A dedication is planned for June 5 at 4:30 pm.

### **Social Committee/Summer Events – Joanne Veech**

- The recent survey results indicated that residents want more social events and neighbor connections. Specifically, more block parties, informal get-togethers, music nights, adult events, and family-friendly gatherings to help residents meet one another. The social committee has added several new events to help address this request. A handout with the list of events was available.
  - **Friday night socials** at Triangle Park. The first Friday of every month starting at 5pm - **June** Through **October**. BYOB and BYOF; a beach chair too!
  - **Start of Season Social** - June 13th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Triangle Park. Pizza, Fruit, Ice Cream and more. BYOB and beach chairs.
  - **July 4th Boat Parade** - July 4th, meet at the stick channel at 4:45pm. The theme is the USA's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or the "Semi-Quincentennial".

- **Triangle Park 'Field Day'** (replaces the Mini Golf event) - August 1st, 10am to 12pm. Bocce, Cornhole Toss, Sack Races. Face painting, balloon making, Touch a Fire Truck, police giveaways and more. For all ages. Prizes. Coffee/donuts and more.
- **End of Season Social** – September 4th, Sunset Park 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Food, Ice Cream, and more. BYOB. Rain Date September 5th.

### **Membership Report - Michele Tropiano**

- There are currently 205 paid members. Michele thanked those members who made additional donations.
- Everyone who paid today or prior to today (except board members) have been entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card donated by Brian and Courtney Sabarese, owners of Daymark, who are High Bar residents. Thank you!
- Support from the membership helps provide funding for numerous activities throughout the season. The board also works year-round behind the scenes on issues such as the channel markers, speeding, and beautification efforts.

### **Communications – Scott Bloor**

- The community interest survey provided good information. This survey was sent to all members and returns totaled 145 or 42%.
  - More social events were requested.
  - Concerns about vehicle speed were voiced. The board has been in contact with Long Beach Township police who added tracking speed limit signs and ramped up surveillance.
  - The importance of the maintenance of the stick channel was noted.
  - Noise and light pollution around the lagoons were also noted. To address noise and light multiple, individuals will need to report the problem. This can be done by writing a letter and getting multiple signatures. Send this to the homeowner and police chief. This will show that it is a neighborhood problem.
  - Overall, the approval rating was high. The board will continue to move forward with items that interest the community however please feel free to let us know.

### **Old/New Business –**

- **Barneгат Light First Aid Squad presentation** – Mark Projednic, Captain of the Barneгат Light First Aid Squad gave a brief presentation.
  - The Barneгат Light First Aid Squad provides 911 Emergency Medical Service to ALL North Beach, Harvey Cedars, Loveladies, Barneгат Light, and High Bar Harbor 24/7/365 free of charge.

- o In 2025 they responded to 548 calls which is the most in their history and represents a 15% increase to their 5-year average.
- o They have 45 members of which 25 are EMTs. However more than half are seasonal members. The biggest need is year-round EMTs. The EMT class is a 300-hour program held in 8-week intensive courses or 5-month standard courses. There are also options for hybrid / online self-paced national courses.
- o Thanks to the generosity of the community, they can purchase and maintain top tier equipment and facilities and train members to the highest standards and provide services free of charge. Visit <https://www.barnegatlightfirstaidsquad.com/> or reach out to Mark to discuss interest in the squad and schedule a tour of our facilities and equipment. Captain Mark Pojednic 201-320-0698
- o The Barnegat Light EMS is NOT part of the Barnegat Light Fire Company.
- o About 15% plus of the calls received come from High Bar.
- o An open house is scheduled for July 19.

**Questions, Answers, Comments - Scott Bloor**

- A participant asked if the Board was considering a donation to the BL EMS. This was answered in the affirmative.
- A question was asked if the State is aware or had any plans to address the issues at the north end of the dike. Scott asked the individual to come talk with him after the meeting so he could learn more.
- A participant living on Sunset Blvd. thanked the board for the hard work on beautification.
- The shed near the entrance side is unsightly. Scott shared that it is privately owned.
- A question was asked about Jen's Links. Only rumors now of more homes.
- The name for the Daymark gift card was drawn by Joe DeLuca.  
Winner: Elaine Stineman at 52 Arnold Blvd.

**Adjournment at approximately 10:34 AM- Scott Bloor**

- Scott thanked all for their attendance and participation