

**Minutes**  
**OBVTA Membership Meeting**  
**Aug. 11, 2018**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Moose Lodge, Ortley Beach**

9:30 a.m. Call to Order

Roll call:

Present: Joseph Cantalupo, Anthony Colucci; Cathy Crisafuli; Mary Ann Giordano; Paul Jeffrey; Antoinette (Toni) Tomarazzo; Mike Wymbbs

Absent: Kathy Barisciano; Joan Strathern

Approved: Minutes of July general membership meeting.

**Treasurer's Report (Steve Sherrill)**

\$73,000 in cash on hand. Ballooning happens every July, then diminishes with spending on Beach Jam.

Took in \$5,000 in July -- \$3,800 from Beach Jam, \$1,200 dues.

Spent \$1,500 – \$600 meeting expense; \$400 on Beach Jam; \$100 on membership mailing

**Membership Report (Steve Sherrill)**

230 of the 500 membership forms he provided at the July meeting were picked up; of those, only 3 new members

OBVTA is maintaining and adding new business members – poster for Beach Jam shows the names of new business members. 22 business members and Docksider intends to rejoin = 23.

Paul Jeffrey: Added a big thank you to businesses, who have provided more than \$4,000 in sponsorships for Beach Jam (particularly Walters Homes and Dakan Homes, and \$1,000 donation from Spirits Unlimited to provide glass favors).

Joe Cantalupo: Motion to accept report

Paul: Seconded

Accepted

**Beach Jam (Rick Jurgens)**

Worries about weather, but decided to go on with event today. Contracts with vendors were finalized for this date so “everything’s all go for today.”

37 volunteers with blue T-shirts available to help.

Can pick up tickets and glasses from Carol. Limited number of tickets to sell. Some will be sold at the gate starting at 5 p.m.

Please thank and support the businesses who are sponsoring the event.

New programs this year: Laser tag, photo booth.

Selling T-shirts.

Toms River has been “awesome” – thank you.

There will be a staff meeting at noon at the beach; all volunteers should be there.

Anthony Colucci: Sold about 600 tickets – “great”

**Community group presentation: Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity (Diana Giuliano, program director)**

Hoping our members, like she, catch “Habitatitis” and get involved

60 local homes have been rebuilt

One low-income family a year is given a new home; in 19<sup>th</sup> year, house now going to a family in Berkeley Township.

Work to avoid homelessness by doing home repairs (the bulk of what they do). Close to 200 homes helped.

Very little staff; rely mostly on affiliates.

Examples of those helped: Disabled man whose wheelchair fell through the floor of his mobile home; boy with autism burned on exposed hot water pipes; old couple who had to wear coats in their homes.

Sept. 8 is their annual Walk to Build in Lavallette (Founders Day); looking for walkers.

Left behind a sign-in sheet for those looking for more information.

Paul: Habitat also has ReStore in the strip mall near Big Lots – sell used furniture, etc. Takes donations. Good way to keep stuff out of landfills.

**Councilwoman Maria Marucca**

Replenishment: Had a partnership meeting on Tuesday with all involved officials. At the meeting they talk about every town. In Toms River South, the project had been on hold for six days because of weather. “It’s a weather and equipment-driven project.” Trying to get themselves back on schedule now.

Now at Surf Cottage area; up to 9<sup>th</sup> is blocked off; opening one entrance on Colony Road in week or two. Harding entrance is open; closed Fielder yesterday. Adding posted rail fence at Colony.

Mats: Toms River is the only town that chose to spend \$360,000 to have mobi-mats at every entrance. Good move because those towns who opted for gravel entranceways have already seen it wash away.

Thinks the project will be done at the end of September. But set final date of Nov. 1, as maybe a few entrances might have to be finished after the bulk of work is done.

Used 318,000 cubic yards of sand so far; have 917,000 cubic yards left to do. About 25% done so far.

Largest project taking place on US coast.

Thursday, Sept. 13: Army Corps meeting on “storm risk management on back bay areas.” Urged people to attend.

Kayak ramp: Designed and staff was meeting with owner of marina near Dockside this week.

Working with TRPD on getting onboard Class 2 (armed) officers. Has budget for 24 of those. Also working on getting officers in all schools.

Surf Club: Attorney sent all paperwork for Blue Acres to Barcelonas; waiting for them to do the final submission.

Made note of passing of Ken Langdon, "mayor of Ortley Beach."

Question: Ugly street lights?

Answer: Our streetscape grant will address that.

Question: Inclines in entrances of new beach? Possible to get temporary mats for re-opened openings?

Answer: Recommending that people go to the entrances that have wheelchair access (lifeguard stand 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue). But she will put in request for something on slopes. Got rid of almost all mats, though; pieced together what they could for entrances on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues.

Anthony: We will be having a meeting with Maria and Don Guardian to discuss all the things we request once the beach is done – showers, mats, etc. Actively putting together a list to get all these things. "Hopefully we'll have the best beach on the East Coast."

Mike Wymbs: Request the council put money in the budget for golf carts to get people with disabilities onto the beach.

Question: Will we be compensated for beach badges, given the access issues?

Answer: TR has the lowest prices for badges on the beach and have not raised rates since Sandy.

Paul: Senior badges available for a one-time price of \$15 at age 62.

Question from Toni Tomarazzo: Can we get an update on the revaluation? And the school funding issues?

Answer: Revaluation is mandated by the Ocean County Board of Taxation. Takes 2-3 years to do it. Have to input every condo unit now, etc. – about \$4 million cost to do so.

Right now in phase of completing maps. Once done, will go out to bid. No time frame of when the reval will occur. Directed board to Don Guardian.

On school funding formula: TR is getting cheated, along with Brick and other towns along coast, by the new formula approved by the legislature. TR spends \$16,000 per pupil and has a 92% graduation rate; cities like Camden are spending about \$50,000 a pupil for a grad rate of less than 50%. Bill pending in legislature says can't raise local portion in Sandy-affected areas until the assessed value is up to pre-Sandy levels. "No easy answers." School district, meanwhile, had

to dip into reserve funds. “Everyone needs to be vocal about this” – it might be OBVTA’s next challenge.

**TRPD Report: Sergeant Buchowski**

Covered new hires for TRPD and new armed school safety officers.

Class 1 (beach) officers helped Friends of Ortley Beach with Kites, Crafts and Cones on July 28.

Now dealing with parking for Beach Jam.

Lots of calls complaining about low-speed vehicles; TR has no ordinances to regulate them.

Question: Are Class 1 officers able to give out parking tickets?

Answer: Post-Sandy, TRPD was lenient with parking, but now ticketing. Seeing a lot of tickets coming in from Class 1 officers.

Question: If it’s not a marked space, is it illegal to park?

Answer: If no yellow curbing, should be OK.

Joe Cantalupo recommended leniency.

Paul reminded members about the EMS lot – free and no time limits.

Question: That EMS lot is full of weeds.

Councilwoman Marucca: She will get it addressed.

**Comments from Members**

John Berish: Suggested changes to Third Avenue lot, to prevent people from blocking the main steps leading up to the boardwalk and beach. “Don’t Block the Box.” Should put up signs and fine people if they pull up in front of the stairs, preventing people from access or egress. Also suggested the town add bike racks. Need more ramps for wagons – not just for ease but also for safety, because difficult to leave beach in cases of lightning. Stop sign in front of chapel is a good idea. He submitted a sketch of changes to lot to the board and members.

Board: We will take a look and include these in the recommendations we make for beach improvements once the replenishment is done.

Meeting Adjourned.

(Minutes by Mary Ann Giordano)