

**Minutes**  
**OBVTA Membership Meeting**  
**July 21, 2018**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Moose Lodge, Ortley Beach**

9:30 a.m. Call to Order

Roll call:

Present: Kathy Barisciano; Anthony Colucci; Cathy Crisafuli; Mary Ann Giordano; Joan Strathern; Antoinette (Toni) Tomarazzo; Mike Wymbs;

Absent: Joseph Cantalupo, Paul Jeffrey

Approved: Minutes of June general membership meeting.

Anthony Colucci announced that Antoinette (Toni) Tomarazzo was reappointed to the board as an at-large member, following the mandatory end to her term as secretary. Toni was welcomed back.

Anthony advised members and presenters to use the mic in the middle of the floor and keep their questions or comments brief.

Steve Sherrill issued the Treasurer's Report (in place of Kathy Barisciano, who had a broken arm). In June the association spent \$2,000, \$1,400 of which went for insurance and \$400 for membership mailing, the balance for meeting and administrative costs.

Membership Report by Steve Sherrill: We are down about 6 percent, or 22 members, and may lose another 50 members as the association now purges its rolls of anyone who has not paid their dues for the last two years. Steve said since Sandy the association has had 300-plus to 500 members, but this year membership is slipping off, primarily because people moved; deaths; disability, and loss of interest with no overwhelming issues driving people to join or re-join. Steve reviewed the various methods used over the years to drive membership and announced a new strategy this year: He asked each member to pick up three membership packets at the registration table and to approach friends, families and neighbors and ask them to join. The first 15 people to pick up forms were awarded Fit Bits.

Guest Speakers:

Rick Jurgens announced that orders were being taken for tickets to Beach Jam on Aug. 11. Up to two tickets could be purchased at a discounted rate today, and tickets would be limited at the event. The tickets purchased today will be distributed at the August meeting. The event, sponsored by the OBVTA, has continued to grow every year, he said, and this year will include a photo booth, 6-foot beach ball and beach laser tag. There will be T-shirts sold. 30 people have

signed on as volunteers. There will be a staff meeting at noon on the beach on the day of the jam. Rick noted that everyone is keeping a close eye on the beach replenishment to make sure it doesn't interfere with the event.

Councilwoman Maria Maruca provided an update on the beach replenishment, which had started on the south end of Ortley, at the CVS, and had moved up to Harding. She said she obtained reciprocal beach privileges from TR and Seaside Heights for residents of Surf Cottages and Vision Beach who do not have beach access because of the project, and said she is reaching out to the mayor to ask him to intervene to obtain similar permission from Seaside Heights for all Ortley residents with TR beach badges. The project's progress can be tracked on the township website, which has a link to the Army Corps updates, and the township also updates its website with progress reports daily. She said the project, which started around July 12<sup>th</sup>, was slowed down when peat was dredged up – vegetation material and older soil – and washed up on the beaches. The material was tested and found safe, and TR public works groomed the beach as best it could.

Surf Club: Councilwoman Maruca said she, Don Guardian and Mayor Kellaher had a conference call with Dolores Barcelona to broach the subject of the twp buying the property to preserve as open land. The request for Blue Acres money has to come from the seller, so the twp will walk the Barcelonas through the paperwork. They are in the process of transferring their liquor license to a new bar/restaurant, the Brew & Burger Pub, coming to the Ocean County Mall. Plan B, if the Blue Acres funds are denied, is to ask the township to purchase the two properties.

Paving project: Councilwoman Maruca said the twp wants to close out the project and make all final fixes to the paving and curbs. Last call to report problems in need of correction.

Kayak ramp: Now under design.

New parking lot on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Members said it is being used; arrangements are being made for the beach crew to pick up the trash.

Temporary beach mats are down on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> avenues. Additional bike racks have been added on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

A fashion fundraiser is being held at the Dover-Brick First Aid Squad on Friday night; details are on the web site.

Member Stan Swakiel (spelling?) of Central Ave. requested that Vision Beach and Surf Cottages offer Ortley badge holders access to their beach while work is going on; Ms. Maruca said a letter would be going out. He said the replenishment web site is not up to date, but she insisted it is.

Member Cathy Castignola (spelling?) of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue praised the twp for the addition of the parking lot but asked that someone take care of the weeds. Ms. Maruca said she would look into that.

Board Member Mike Wymbs commented that it was OK to apply for Blue Acres money for the Surf Club property, but noted that in the 18 years that the Open Space tax has been in effect, not a dime has been spent on the barrier island. He said the twp has also not done enough to support efforts to obtain rights to part of the OCUA property and to push back against the resistance of the OCUA board via the Ocean County Freeholders. Ms. Maruca objected, saying “time and time again we have supported that for you, but if the OCUA is not a willing seller, you’re not going to get that property.” She said there will likely be no change until there is a change of OCUA leadership.

Member Barbara Guarino (spelling?), Coolidge Ave., asked about the Port-A-Johns that have shown up at the boardwalk. Ms. Maruca said there was a change in the state administrative code requiring bathrooms in closer proximity than our two at the beach. But another member, Pat from Bay Blvd., later pointed out that Lavallette has no bathrooms at all and no Port-A-Johns. Ms. Maruca said she would ask Don Guardian to look into it. And Councilman Mo Hill added that he would check with the Ocean County Board of Health on Monday and see what the deal was, as it was correct that neither Lavallette or Seaside have added Port-A-Johns.

Member Paul Parcell (spelling?), 6<sup>th</sup> Terrace, said he had pursued the question of dogs on the beach. He said he contacted the TR Board of Health and Animal Control and was informed that dogs are not permitted on the beach at any time, with or without a leash. Also police dispatchers are not to direct complaints to Animal Control. Lifeguards are not required to address complaints, only the police. Police officers do not have discretion with that and must deal with the issue.

Board Member Toni Tomarazzo revived the OCUA discussion, saying that TR should use its sway with freeholders to make sure that only people who support the OBVTA position should be appointed to the OCUA board. She suggested that they obtain bios of new members and try to get someone from the barrier island appointed to the board. Toni also recommended a similar process for the twp zoning and planning boards, as the current members are ignoring the master plan and allowing out of compliance projects to go through. Ms. Marucca said the town’s influence with the freeholders is so limited that when they asked them, as required, to sign off on a \$56 million grant for the downtown redevelopment, they refused – the only entity to do so. “We have battles all over with them,” she said. “Not just over the OCUA.”

A resident later called on members to register to vote in Ocean County, saying that is the only way to gain clout.

Gail D’Amico, president of Friends of Ortley Beach, announced the Kites, Crafts and Cones fair on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Boardwalk from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a free event and 25 vendors – all homemade crafters – will participate. She urged members to attend, as the

vendors are “leery” about participating in the first such event in OB. She said there will be a food truck and a live band from 5 to 7, and from 6 p.m to 8 p.m. there will be kite flying, face painting and balloon artists for children, all free. She called for volunteers to help.

Anthony welcomed St. Elisabeth’s Chapel as a new honorary member and introduced Dennis Bellars. Dennis said the chapel was the oldest building in Ortley until Sandy washed it away. Four years later, a new chapel was rededicated, after much effort. The chapel is three times the original size, though similar ambiance. He invited everyone to mass at 9:30 a.m., and said at least half the people who attend weekly are not Episcopalians. “We warmly welcome you.” The fellowship hall is available for rent, he said, and seats 50 people comfortably. It was the site of the Sandy five-year anniversary commemoration last October, which the church has now decided to make an annual event. The church’s annual gift auction is coming up on July 31 at the Elks Club in TR, and all are invited. He had tickets available for the event and the 50-50. The Blessing of the Animals takes place on the first Sunday in October.

Sergeant Bachonski of the TRPD clarified the department’s position on dogs. He also introduced two of the new Class 1 officers. The department also has a Class 3 program to hire retired officers to work in the TR schools, with the goal of one officer in every school. New TR officers are also being hired; applicants must have a four year-degree. He announced that the TRPD has gotten a grant for two bomb-sniffing dogs of their own. And he said they have received complaints about Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs), which are not banned by ordinance in TR. He urged residents to call the Quality of Life Task Force with complaints about things like abandoned buildings.

Toni Tomarazzo called on the TRPD to develop a plan for the huge rain storms we have been having, which are flooding the roads and creating safety hazards. She said when she complained to Chief Hall, she received a strongly worded response which she had expected to be able to respond to at this meeting, but he did not attend. Sergeant Bachonski said the last storm was exceptional and the mainland was hard hit, with 200 calls for service in 2 ½ hours. She urged the PD to plan ahead, make barriers available to block frequently flooding streets, and invest in some orange cones. The sergeant said the PD would set up a heavy rain plan that dispatches the Class 1 officers to hazardous streets. Toni thanked the officer and said, “You do a great job.”

Member Edie from 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. questioned whether the noise ordinances could be applied to fireworks and asked when it is appropriate to call. Sergeant Bachonski said the twp has a number of ordinances that apply to noise. He also noted that some fireworks are now legal, but most aren’t, and that people should call the police with noise complaints.

Member Karen from Coolidge on the bay asked if others had heard the boat come through late at night blaring music, and asked what could be done about it. Sergeant Bachonski said the state police would enforce the noise ordinance on the water. He urged her to get the number of the boat and report it to them.

She also passed on a rumor that there was a woman living in her car at the beach and using the Port-A-Potty. He asked for a make and color of the car.

Another member asked who will monitor the dunes once they are built. Sergeant Bachonski urged members to speak up themselves. Signs and fencing are also planned. Members urged a high fine to discourage kids and visitors from climbing the dunes.

The resident also asked about parking guidelines, saying people are parking outside the lines. Sergeant Bachonski urged people to call and complain and they will write tickets.

Paul Lagana (spelling?) of Washington Avenue said there are no stop signs East and West on Washington Avenue and people are speeding. Another resident complained about an overgrown tree on the corner of Fielder and Washington, which he said blocks sight.

Comments from the Board:

Cathy Crisafulli urged members to not wait to come to a meeting to report problems, but to speak up at the time if they see something going on. She also urged members to attend Planning and Zoning Board meetings and speak up about overdevelopment.

Joan suggested that to encourage more members, we should ask the "Ortley Guy," Tim O'Shea, to include a membership form in with mailings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Reported by Mary Ann Giordano