

Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association

May 2018 General Membership Meeting

April 21, 2018

Attendance: Anthony Collucci, Paul Jeffrey, Toni Tomarazzo, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, Mike Wymb,

Regrets: Kathy Barisciano, Joe Cantalupo, Maryann Giordano

Quorum established.

Acceptance of 2018 April General Membership meeting- minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

By Steve Sherrill. Spent \$1900 since last meeting. Expenses are: Deposit on the Beach Jam of \$600.00 \$1000 welcome back party from last meeting, \$300 on exploring the lightscape in Atlantic City.

Significantly behind previous five years on membership renewals. Given this situation we may be behind budget. This may improve as people come down to start the season. The BOD is looking for new ideas that will increase membership.

The treasurer's report was moved and accepted.

Guest Councilwoman Maruca

-Flood insurance rate – Toms River lowered the Flood rating to seven. The higher the number the higher the premium for flood policies for home in Toms River. In 2013 Toms River was rated an eight, now a seven. Represents significant savings in insurance premiums.

-ACOE Project - slated for Ortley Beach for sometime in June. No date yet – meeting after Memorial Day but it is anticipated that there will be delays – the ACOE is still working in LBI. The two ships needed to complete the Ortley project are still in LBI. The vendor has five boats, two of them will be dedicated to the Ortley project. Likely that this will not begin in June. www.tomsrivertownship.com

1000 feet of beach is done at a time. Details on the project can be obtained on the Toms River website that brings you to the ACOE site. This is updated regularly.

-trailer/boat-if you store a boat and a trailer must now register both.

-kayak ramp project is moving along. Will be at the Dockside marina.

-The striping project in Ortley is almost done. The contractors are working on the punch list for striping to identify and address any issues – open items should be reported to the Toms River engineering department. Residents can call 732-341-1000 ext 8335 Robert Chankalian Township Engineer or Wendy Birkhead Asst Township Engineer.

-upcoming council meeting – ordinance will be introduced to switch stop sign on Eisenhower and Washington Avenue

-DPW now has recycling app sponsored by the NJDEP. Residents can upload the recycling app and can get the trash and recycling schedule for Toms River. Link located on the Toms River web site www.tomsrivertownship.com

Question: Category of Flood Insurance has gone down, is there any estimate of how much the flood insurance has gone down?

Answer – an additional 5%. The new bills should show a total of 15% of discount from record high costs.

Question: what else can the town do to get this down further

Answer – Paul Jeffrey advised that further reductions can be achieved by improving CRS rating given by FEMA. This is dependent on the number of homes that are compliant with raising above the base flood elevation. The more homes compliant the better the rate.

Question: If your house was not substantially damaged and you did not raise it, does this affect the rate?

Answer: If the house was not damaged but is less than the BFE contributing to keeping the rate high. There are other ways to get the CRS rating lower – including possibly the dune project, work on mitigating the flood waters etc. For next meeting Councilwoman Maruca and the Township's Engineer will put together some info on what can/ is being done to get the CRS rating down further.

Question: member stated that flood insurance can go up because the prior 25% discount that Ortleigh Beach got was before Sandy and the federal program is eliminating the discount now that the town flooded.

Answer: The rates will rise until they reach market value. This is why it is important to get the rating number down as low as possible. This is a federal issue and why it is important that the representatives in the US Congress work diligently to provide a fair National Flood Insurance Plan.

Question: never replaced the water covers top in streets after the paving (3rd and Washington and one on Delmuth and Washington and one on Coolidge and Washington). Also the member found it impossible to talk to anyone at Toms River?

Answer- Councilwoman Maruca advised that there are two people in the township that answer incoming phone calls. Please try again.

Question: zoning board council is appointed by the Zoning Board. One OBVTA member reported that he witnessed the zoning board counsel permitting inappropriate statements by applicant's counsel. This should not be permitted. The zoning counsel is paid by the township

Answer: Councilwoman Maruca advised the OBVTTA to raise any issues to Ken Fitzsimmons –Toms River Corporate Counsel .

Question: How do you reach Maria Maruca

Answer: Her email address is : maria.maruca@tomsrivertownship.com

Question: Street Signage? Any plans to put no parking on any side of streets? How will people figure out that they can't park on a side of the street b/c there isn't any painted spaces? (if one car parks on a side of the street it fills up almost immediately – within 15 minutes). Without signs it is hard for visitors to know no parking on a side is permitted.

Answer: Sgt Bachonski will address.

Special Guest Sgt Bachonski

-Bridge open again.

-Washington and Eisenhower stop signs. Based on OBVTA request and a review by the Toms River Police Department – the engineer and Police Department have approved a change in the stop sign. An ordinance has been prepared and will be read on first reading at next council meeting. After that it will be second reading and public comment.

-Operation Watchdog for video cameras. Detective in Toms River started this program. When a crime occurs – Police conducts a canvass of the area to see who has video cameras. Residents and businesses can register with police department to notice that they have a video. If a crime occurs near there police may ask to see video. This does not give the police to tap into surv feeds. This is voluntary and confidential. Detective will be at the OBVTA in June to explain. The ext for the detective is 732 349-0150 x1241

-no parking signs is an issue under review by the police department. Working on this project, can't put too many up but the police are looking at this and will review.

-events – today Chilifest in Toms River 11-5 on Washington Street in Toms River

-Class one police from May 26 to labor day 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm six assigned to Ortle Beach

-anyone that needs help installing car seat – every second and fourth Thursday at Silver Lake Fire House May 24th is the next opportunity.

-Trolley from 12-6 June 2 in downtown Toms River

-first week in June enforcement event that deals with the move over law. If any emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the road and you have enough time you must move one lane over. This exercise will be run by the Police Department on Route 37. Goal is education.

-accepting applications until July 31 for full time police officers, Application is on the website www.trpolice.org

-fireworks – 4th of July coming up. Law allowed for the sale and possession of non explosive fireworks – sparklers, ground based sparklers and smoke devices. Firecrackers, rockets etc are not. For example no roman candles etc. Contact police to report any illegal use of fireworks.

Question: Railway avenue – years ago after Sandy was made one way and then that was abandoned and it was made two way. When they repaved the roads they put arrows on Railway between 6th and 3rd. These arrows are now painted over in black. This week the rain has washed away the black paint. It is two way now and the arrows need to be covered up.

Answer: Toms River Police will review.

Question: Bathrooms being opened on the boardwalk. Why cant the bathrooms be open and use the Class I officers who can lock the bathrooms at the end of the

Answer: Police will review.

Question: On Fielder put parking spaces on both sides of the street. Between 35 north and south.....two cars can't pass

Answer: Toms River Police will review for the minimum space and if not appropriate will be corrected.

Question: how many feet from a park sign can a car stop? Can Class 1 officers write tickets?

Answer: Yes Class 1 can write tickets. That's not their goal unless it's a safety issue. After Sandy very lenient with parking to assist people with recovery. Now everything is marked and will be enforced.

Question: parking can you block your own driveway?

Answer: you can not. If it is not a legal parking space a vehicle cannot park there.

Question: On the corner of Fort and 37 North there is a sign for the bridge. You can't go across Fort to go for the bridge...why is the sign there?

Answer: Toms River Police will review.

Question: are there ordinances as to how big a tent can go on the beaches? Now that Seaside has guards until 9:00pm – crowds are coming to Ortley to put up tents and cook on the beach.

Answer: yes there is. Specific sizes and life guards will review.

Question: Is there an ordinance about fences and how high they can be and where they are located? On Coolidge there is a fence on the property line and you can't see?

Answer – will review and advise.

Friends of Ortley Beach

This organization that is not affiliated with the OBVTA. (Future OBVTA meetings may provide introductions to other non profit organizations serving Ortley Beach that the OBVTA is not affiliated with to provide information on opportunities for Ortley Beach residents for community involvement.)

The FOB participated in a workshop with the well known organization Save Barnegat Bay. FOB was fortunate to have partnered with Save Barnegat Bay...a well managed and respected organization.

Kites, Crafters and Cones – the FOB representatives said that they "desperately" need help. Please contact representatives of the FOB to see if some good people can get involved and help this event take place. After the success of last year it is important that at least this event gets organized and gets off the ground again.

Townwide Garage Sale planned in June. The FOB simply prepared a flyer. Unclear if they have done anything else to date and the representative of the FOB did not give further details. Look for flyers for more information.

Pet Event in Ortley Beach – no details and the representative was advised by the township that the 3rd street parking lot may not be available due to the beach and dune projects. Some of that area may be needed to stage equipment during the project.

Guest Councilman Mo Hill

Question: buy Surf Club – will you support purchase...said small property heard it's coming back at 8Million

Answer: councilman wants to see the appraisal. He did not commit to supporting this vital initiative to secure what is likely the last large piece of beachfront property that could be secured for open space and beach access. The Councilman noted that the plans submitted by developers that request the permanent closing of Ocean Avenue so that development can include the street area that connects the beach property and the parking lot are "dead on arrival" and are not supported. (NOTE: The issue for the township is that the council must consider the revenue that can be obtained by

development on the property. It remains a mystery as to the percentage of Toms River Township income from the taxes on Ortlely Beach property vs. overall Toms River tax income (i.e. comparing tax levy in Ortlely Beach vs. tax levy in the rest of Toms River on a percentage basis and actual dollars).

Comments from Paul Jeffrey

-Shakespeare in the Park. Dependent on beach replenishment. Funds are needed by the organization putting on the show.

-BeachJam August 11 planned. Need to be flexible because of the beach replenishment.

-Stop Fema now has another house raising seminar. June 9th at (need to check on location)

Comments on the Streetscape

Joan Strathern advised the membership that a group from the OBVTA board went with the Toms River Administrator Don Guardian to see the lighting in Atlantic City. Don is the former Mayor of AC. In addition the grant writer for AC attended. There are \$1M in grants already awarded to improve the Ortlely Beach streetscape and the township allotted \$75,000 for planning and NJDOT offered help in planning.

OBVTA Board developed a writing for the township outlying what improvements we would like to see for Ortlely. This will be posted on the OBVTA website. For example, attractive street lighting along Rte 35, benches and trash receptacles on Route 35. Also more trees on Rte 35 to supplement what was done when NJ completed

The OBVTA asked for attractive lighting along the boardwalk and an arbor on 3rd and Fielder – that would say Ortlely Beach. On boardwalk also requested return of the gazebos – proposed that the gazebos to be elevated and even if not elevated still return so that there is a place to sit out of the sun and sit and rest. Two gazebos to be rebuilt.

It is hoped that more grant money can be located from Toms River or other grants.

President Colluci comments:

-Eisenhower stop sign in 60 days

-Kayak launch within 90 days

-EMS Building lot now clear – parking will be there in the summer.

-primary election June 5 for both Democratic and Republican – Senate, Congress seats open

-Light of Day Foundation – fundraiser on June 16 at Barnacle Bills for Parkinson and ALS disease for the second year. This has been done since the year 2000 and the foundation has raised more than \$5Million. The cost is \$10 per individual and \$35 for a family of four.

Comments Cathy Crissafulli

-thanked Maria Maruca and Mo Hill for attending our meetings and keeping the organization going.

Elections

Four open positions: Vice President, Secretary and two Directors.

Nominations will be accepted now through the next General Membership meeting in June. Nominations should be sent to the OBVTA email along with a resume or bio for the candidate.

Toni nominated three current members of the Board who are running for reelection: MaryAnn Giordano for Secretary, Cathy Crissafulli and Joan Strathern for Director.

(Note – in error the requirement that the OBVTA elect a Vice President at the June meeting was accidentally omitted. The VP spot held by Paul Jeffrey is up for election. Paul was appointed to this position after Anthony Collucci was elected President. Paul's last two years as VP were completing Anthony's term as VP. The position of VP is now up for election during the course of the regular voting cycle prescribed by the organization's bylaws. Nominations for VP will be taken up until the June general membership meeting.)

Member Comments

-Theresa – thanked the Board for the wonderful breakfast that started off our year

-Question – are the advertising signs coming down on the boardwalk – the answer is yes and the Township is working on it per Councilwoman Maruca –(the contract exists)

-Member commented that they would like bike racks up at the beach.

Next OBVTA general membership meeting will be Saturday June 16th at 9:30 at the Ortle Beach Moose on Bay Blvd.