

**Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association
General Membership Meeting
Oct. 20, 2018
The Moose Lodge, Ortley Beach, 9:30 a.m.**

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Roll call: Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, Cathy Crisafulli, Kathy Barisciano, Mary Ann Giordano Wallis present. Quorum established.

Minutes of the September 2018 General Membership Meeting accepted.

Treasurer's and Membership reports – by Kathy Barisciano – accepted.

Treasurer's report highlights:

- About \$1,000 in dues was collected in the last month.
- Expenses included about \$150 for meetings; \$500 for deposit for holiday party.
- Cash is \$5,700 more than budgeted, in part because we did not need to contribute \$1,500 to Beach Jam this year because of the many sponsorships.
- Ended September with \$67,500.

Membership report highlights:

- 462 paid members – same as last year and ahead of the 450 budgeted.

Guests:

Christie Winters, Seeds of Service

- Formerly Visitation Relief Center, part of Visitation Roman Catholic Church.
- Group became active and was very helpful during Sandy – able to rebuild or repair more than 310 homes, partly with volunteer help of teenagers and young adults.
- Because the young people liked the opportunity for service, they formed a 501c3 charitable organization, independent of the parish.
- They now have their own building at 725 Mantoloking Road.
- They offer 26 different services, including outreach for employment, financial and assistance services; food pantry; pet pantry; environmental programs; a community garden; summer and vacation lunch program; town cleanups; school partnerships; senior citizen employment opportunity; a store from contributions.
- Volunteering opportunities available and donations accepted.

Council Member Maria Maruca:

- Surf Club and Blue Acres: The state made a site visit last week and met with town officials. There is only \$15 million in the entire program, but we are fighting for a large chunk of it. The Blue Acres program is now doing its own appraisal; they would only get to that step if they are interested in acquiring the property. She is “hopeful.” The town is going to make a case to the state that there are a lot of

improvements that must be made to the site, and perhaps the town's spending on those could be counted as its "matching" contribution. Re: parking lot, the town is "trying to get creative." Overall, the process is moving "quicker than anticipated." Thanks to the board for support. "Once we get the Surf Club property we can really have a real joy of a seaside" community.

- Beach replenishment: Plan is to be done at the end of December. Grass plantings will be done from late January into February. All planting will be done by the spring, so the roots have time to take hold before hurricane season. The town had \$350,000 available to purchase mats, etc.; the town is adding another \$200,000 to upgrade the mats because the first mats bought and used at Vision Beach were "not good." Certain ordinances will have to be passed for the purchases, etc., and they will soon be on for "first read."
- Beach services: The town will be adding two lifeguard stands and will keep the lifeguards on until 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays. It's an experiment.
- Kayak ramp: The second meeting was held with the owners of the Dockside Marina; survey is being done; bike and kayak storage rack are "in design."
- Paving: Now is the time to report curbing or other paving problems paving because they are about to go through their punch list. Contact her or Bob Chankalian if you have issues.
- "George to the Rescue" was in Toms River to remodel a house off Fischer Blvd. where a service member, Tyler, 24, lives with his parents. He was seriously wounded in a Humvee accident in the Mideast wars. The "reveal" was held on Sept. 11 and the program will air on NBC on Sept. 27.

Questions for Maria Maruca:

- Beach access for elderly, disabled?: Two handicapped ramp entrances. People should be directed there. We will monitor it and "see how it goes."
- Possible to put a bench at the cutout area at the top of the new dunes, so people can see the water?: Considering benches as part of the plan for the new Surf Club property, as well as higher elevation so people can see the water. Paul Jeffrey suggested that we solicit donors to add benches and tables. Questioner said he would buy the first bench.
- What is the timeline for 6th Terrace street raising and re-paving? It's going into design. She will get an update from Bob. Cathy Crisciano said she brought it up with Bob Chankalian at the last council meeting and one council member had asked for a second quote for the engineering work. Waiting for that. Maria said "the project is not benched." Some bids for various projects are coming on Oct. 25 and she will ask Bob Chankalian for an update.
- Kathy Barisciano asked what will the town do with the chain link fence on the beach side of the boardwalk and what is the plan for dune enforcement?: There has been a discussion to remove the fences, but no final decision has been made.
- Paul Jeffrey noted that Bob Chankalian did beautiful drone shots of the beach on Sept. 29 and the link will be on the OBVTA website.

Sgt. Bachonski, TRPD:

- He is now in charge of community affairs and overseeing community events. He noted several upcoming events.
- The next neighborhood watch meeting will be held Nov. 1 at police headquarters. He urged Ortley to organize and participate. He is looking for representatives from our community, and block leaders. Suggestion from floor: If doing a block by block neighborhood network, identify all those on the block in need of medical care.
- He urged signing up for Nixle to get alerts.

OBVTA Actions:

Anthony Colucci, president:

- The holiday party is Saturday, December 15, at Park Pavilion in Seaside. Tickets are \$38. They can be purchased on the website and Mary Ann Giordano Wallis is also collecting.
- St. Elisabeth's will hold a "survivors service" to commemorate the 6-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 9:30 a.m.
- The board will have several members who will be away, so is in the process of deciding whether it will hold a November meeting. Members will be notified via email and on the website.

Paul Jeffrey, vice-president:

- We would like social media help to build up our membership and messaging. Contact him if you know of anyone.

From the floor:

Bill Kevish, commander of the Seaside Heights American Legion asked the board to donate a wreath for the Veterans Day event. The board approved. A ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. Lunch will be served and everyone is invited.

Vote to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Approved.

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Minutes prepared by Mary Ann Giordano Wallis