

**Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association
General Membership Meeting
Sept. 15, 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, Joan Strathern, Mary Ann Giordano Wallis present. Quorum established.

Minutes of the August 2018 General Membership Meeting accepted.

Treasurer's and Membership reports –by Steve Sherrill, for Kathy Barisciano – accepted.

Treasurer's report highlights:

- \$300 profit to OBVTA from Beach Jam, but overall gain of \$1,800 over budget because did not spend \$1,500 designated contribution.
- Dues collection in August were substantial.
- A dues reminder mailing went out to 136 households and drew about 60 responses.
- We are still down, about 14%, over last year, but only by about 17 members.
- The O'Shea Group/Keller Williams included 270 OBVTA membership flyers in their latest mailing, drawing 5 new members.
- O'Shea will also do a two-sided mailing with the OBVTA registration form on the 2nd side.

Guests:

Bob Chankalian, town engineer:

- Beach replenishment: Because of the weather and hurricane threats down south, dredging ships were sent to safe harbor two weeks ago. The Ortley ship, the Ellison, was on track to come back. The ACoE is still hoping to be done by Nov. deadline.
- Kayak ramp: The town is suggesting an alternative location, at the SW end of the marina, that will have additional parking, space for a storage rack, and launch area. They will run the latest plan by the Dockside Marina people, and he is "optimistic" that they will be able to get the permit from the state DEP.
- 6th Terrace: They are putting out an RFP for design of an elevation plan. Neighbors will be able to pick how high to elevate, then will move to design plans, then out to bid.
- Questions and complaints from residents about the 6th Terrace process and the urgent need to move quickly. Mr. Chankalian promised to look at a storm drain that is backing up and causing severe flooding. Mr. Chankalian noted that sea level has risen by 1 foot here in the last year. Flooding "is going to get worse, not better."

Don Guardian, town administrator:

- Surf Club property: The owners have applied for Blue Acres funding to purchase the land. The Barcellonas are willing to sell, the price has been agreed on, and the paperwork is now going through. Thinks it has a very good chance of happening. There are also federal funds available.
- If so, the boardwalk will be contiguous, except it will break around the Golden Gull building; have to have a willing seller to purchase that, and so town will just have to work around it.
- They have addressed complaints about the poor upkeep on Rt. 35; the state has agreed to cut grass, weeds and trim hedges every two weeks.
- Thank you for two great events, Beach Jam & Shakespeare in the Park.
- We are 80% of the way toward seeing new lights along Route 35, with existing grant money. Then the town will apply for another million-dollar grant next year for further improvements.
- Kayak ramp: Hoping it will be in place by Memorial Day.
- Port-a-Potties on the beach: They reached out to the state and got approval to NOT have them next year. The state requires an outhouse at every entrance, but because of our two existing bathrooms, the state waived the requirement.
- With the expanding public beach area, the state will provide more lifeguards, checkers and trash cans next summer.
- In response to questions, he:
 - Offered to look at the lack of stop signs throughout the 6th Terrace peninsula.
 - The town will replace mats next summer; the manufacturer had switched out the existing mats to an inferior model, and they did not last the summer. The replacements will be heavier. The town is figuring out how to add mats on the beach that will survive high tide and so the sand rake does not need to pull up to get over them. They are looking at parallel mats near the dunes, like Brick.
 - They will look at having lifeguards stay until 6 p.m. He noted that almost all drownings occur along the shore after the lifeguards leave.

Chief Little, TRPD:

- The town approved allocating more supervisors to help the TRPD handle its various classes of officers.
- He introduced Lt. Patrick Dellane, who has been promoted to a supervisory role over “community affairs.” Also introduced Jillian, who does social media, graphics, etc. for the department.
- The TRPD is now at full strength and will be able to hire three more officers in January to replace the three who were promoted: Lt. Dellane, Sgt. Bachonski, Sgt. Gene Austin

Sgt. Bachonski, TRPD:

- Discussed his new duties and said we will be seeing more beach officers next summer.
- In response to questions, promised to look into the haphazard and dangerous parking of construction vehicles around construction sites; said Jillian will look into a suggestion of providing magnets with TRPD phone numbers to all Ortley residents.

Bill DeCamp, Save Barnegat Bay (community guest):

- Invited residents to come by the office in TR at Browns Woods (where Washington St. joins Rt. 37); they were formerly in Lavallette but were washed out in Sandy.
- Good news: On Monday, Sept. 17, the Oyster Creek nuclear plant will close. Used millions of gallons of water for cooling, which had a harmful effect on the environment.
- More good news: The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Fund secured 8,000 acres in Lacey Township west of the GSP, which is good for the watershed. The bay needs as much open land as possible.
- Because the county is so built out, a lot of efforts are going into how to manage storm water runoff into bay, to limit introduction of more nitrogen into the ecosystem.
- One big issue is the inadequacy and engineering problems with pump stations throughout the area, including at Eisenhower near Stewart's. Many have pipe levels that are below the water table. Save Barnegat Bay has been watchdog at the DOT on this issue and have developed a good relationship.
- In response to question, said he would make information available about what native plants should be added to help soak up nitrogen and that will thrive here.

OBVTA Actions:**Anthony Colucci, president:**

- Anthony, Paul and Joan recently met with Don Guardian to review issues. In addition to what Mr. Guardian mentioned, they asked the town to address the leaning telephone poles throughout Ortley. Mr. Guardian said the town would consider an ordinance to require the utilities to maintain the poles at a certain angle.
- Dune grass will be planted by the end of the year.
- He attended the Army Corps of Engineers Back Bay Flooding meeting the previous week. There was a good article in the Asbury Park Press summing up the proposals; the article will be posted on the OBVTA website. The ACoFE will be putting its first proposal together in December and has set up a website to gather public comments. The project is to be completed by 2026.
- We are collecting donations for victims of Hurricane Florence. The North Carolina Baptists were a great help to Ortley after Sandy, and now they are in need of our

help. A flyer with drop off and other information will be posted on the OBVTA website.

Joan Strathern, board member:

- The holiday party will likely be held on Dec. 15. More information will be forthcoming.
- Has anyone received their new flood insurance bill yet? She received hers, and the premium went up about 35%. She said if the bill arrives, make sure it says CRS 15, which entitles you to a discount.

Paul Jeffrey, vice-president:

- There will be a special meeting for business members on Tuesday, the 18th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Gate Express. All business members are welcome.

Meeting adjourned.