

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 19, 2025

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the April 19, 2025 OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of silence was conducted by the OBVTA Board of Directors for those who have died and are suffering in the war. The moment of reflection was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call – Roll call was conducted by the Secretary, John Clarke, and the following Board of Directors were present; Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, John Clarke, Debbie Barton, and Mike Wymbs.
4. Quorum –President, Anthony Colucci, requested Secretary John Clarke to determine whether or not a quorum was present. Upon review of the members present for the General Membership meeting, it was clearly established that a quorum had been reached as far in excess of 40 members of the membership were present at the meeting thereby establishing a quorum.
5. Minutes – The minutes from the October 19, 2024 General Membership meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors.
6. Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report was presented by the OBVTA, Treasurer, Debbie Barton. Ms. Barton presented the budget for 2025 including projected fees, interest on money market and CD's. Membership and meeting expenses were detailed including refreshments, rental and insurance costs. Cash balance for the year is starting at \$70,227.00 with an expected ending balance of \$70,822.00. A copy of the financials is attached to the end of the meeting minutes. The budget was approved by all members present.
7. Guest Speakers – Guest speakers included Justin Lamb, our Councilman for the Toms River Council and Ashley Lamb who is the President of the Toms River Board of Education. Justin Lamb spoke first and addressed a variety of issues. He

discussed the ongoing beach replenishment project and spoke in detail about the beach, the wider openings for access points to the beach as well as the potential for railings installed on the wood fencing bordering the access points. Discussion was had about the dune movement itself and the planting of the dune grass on the dunes. It appears that the dune grass will not be planted until after the summer season in the areas where the dune has moved back. Justin felt that the Army Corp. of Engineers will come back to plant the dune grass in October while Board of Director John Clarke indicated he was told by workers that it would not be until December.

Discussion also centered around the current Toms River administration now allowing a representative from the Toms River Police Department to be present to speak at the meetings. One of the OBVTA members indicated that another organization that she was a part of, a community watch program, was also told that a representative from the Toms River Police Department would not be present. Justin indicated that as a Police Officer in Lavallette, and as a Councilman in Toms River, he is fully aware of all of the challenges and ongoing of the police in and around Ortley Beach. This did not satisfy the BOD nor the General Membership and it was discussed that we would hope to have a member from the police department at our future meetings.

Councilman Lamb discussed the inquiries in EMS services that are being provided to Ortley Beach and indicated that the response time for the barrier island was previously 16.8 minutes on average and at the current time is down to 6.2 minutes which is a significant increase.

Councilman Lamb also addressed the status of the boardwalk expansion and the response was that at the current time their focus is purely on the replenishment and once the replenishment is done, then they will move over to the boardwalk expansion and street scape.

There was also discussion on the location of the kayak storage over by the tennis courts. Councilman Lamb was defensive and indicated that they put up additional storage racks at the request of the OBVTA and now there are complaints as to where they are located. The alternative is basically to leave them where they are at or if we want, to have them removed all together.

Ashley Lamb also gave a presentation to the OBVTA General Membership on behalf of the Toms River Board of Education. Ms. Lamb indicated that we are all aware of the financial shortcomings that are being faced by the Toms River Board of Education. The long and short of it is that will a multi million dollar budget gap for the Toms River schools, in all likelihood this will result in a tax increase for Toms River residents. Some cuts have been made in an attempt to alleviate the issue but the reality is, despite the fact that the Board of Education opposes any tax increase, the state may mandate the tax increase to cover the budget deficit.

8. Beach and Dune Update – John Clarke, on behalf of the beach committee gave an update to the General Membership on the dune and beach replenishment. Mr. Clarke reported that the majority of the pumping of the sand, moving of the dunes, and increasing the berm of the beach has been completed and that they are now working on the walk overs before moving north. The dunes that have been moved are bare and do not have any grass. Mr. Clarke reported that he had had conversations with workers for Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company and their knowledge was that the dune grass would not be planted until December of 2025. As indicated earlier, Councilman Lamb indicated it was his understanding that the dune grass would be planted in October 2025. Either way, there will be no dune grass on the dunes for the upcoming summer season.

As we are now moving forward with the dune replacement, a variety of issues concerning the beach need to be addressed. Councilman Lamb and John Clarke met on Friday, April 18, 2025 to go over a variety of issues. These issues included, but were not limited to snow fencing to be installed, placement of access/egress maps for the beach, hand railings, badge checkers location, more “stay off the dunes” signs on both the boardwalk and on the beach side, badges being enforced earlier in the season, and potentially having movies and/or concerts on the beach for the upcoming season. Councilman Lamb was agreeable on most of the issues and we are looking forward to moving forward on these issues. There was a consensus for the General Membership that the snow fencing needs to be installed as soon as possible to keep people off the dunes. Councilman Lamb was hesitant and felt that it might be a waste of time as they will have to come back to take them down at the end of the season when the dune grass gets replanted. This is a concern for the OBVTA and Mr. Clarke indicated that he would press Mr. Lamb for the snow fencing to be installed. The movies and concerts on the beach

for the upcoming season are an idea that is being floated and are not definite but Councilman Lamb is working on the same.

9. Activities at Island Beach State Park – John Clarke indicated that the Island Beach State Park is a unique resource available to the residents on the barrier island including those in Ortley Beach. There are a number of events that will be scheduled through Island Beach State Park as well as through the Friends of Island Beach State Park. Island Beach State Park has not announced their calendar of events for the 2025 season as of the date of this meeting and the Friends of Island Beach State Park were meeting on the same day as our General Membership meeting so the information was not available. Typically, however, the events start in June, some are free and some cost some money. The number and diversity of events is surprising and include the likes of yoga sessions, meditation, clamming, kayak trips, educational programs, sunset paddle sessions, trips to Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone, astronomy events, and presentations by Island Beach State Park Nature Educators. Once the events are scheduled, Mr. Clarke will give an updated list of the same at the May General Membership meeting.

10. Street Scape update – Paul Jeffrey gave an update of the street scape program on behalf of Joan Strathern who was unable to be present at our meeting. Basically, in summation, the street scape program is moving forward but it seems likely that it may not be until after the summer season. Anthony Colucci jumped in and indicated that a number of the Board of Directors had had a meeting with Drew Markowitz of NV Five who has really stepped up and put a rush on the program. He has included the manager of the DEP in these negotiations and has been assured that this matter is moving forward and there is some optimistic hope that this program may begin and be completed sooner than later. It was discussed and agreed through the General Membership that the hard work of the OBVTA, and in particular, Cathy Crisafulli and Joan Strathern, as well as others, were responsible for this matter continuing. Drew Markowitz had indicated during the prior meeting that if it wasn't for the OBVTA, this grant would probably have been wasted and street scape would not be moving forward.

11. Board of Directors 2025 Election – John Clarke, Secretary, gave the update on the upcoming 2025 Board of Directors election. Three elector seats are up for

re-election and those include the seats of Paul Jeffrey, Mike Wymbs, and John Clarke. All three Board of Directors have indicated that they will be seeking re-election but it was asked and requested that if any of our General Membership wishes to seek a spot on the Board of Directors, that they notify the OBVTA Board of Directors **PRIOR** to the May meeting and provide a summary of what they may bring to the OBVTA so that the same can be presented at the May meeting. If no other individuals are seeking election, then the three members who are seeking re-election will be re-elected via a cast of vote by the Secretary, John Clarke.

12. Board of Director Comments – John Clarke gave a quick update on the upcoming activities that are being presented by Friends of Ortley Beach. The Friends of Ortley Beach will be present at our May, 2025 meeting to discuss their status and their upcoming activities. In the meantime, Mr. Clarke indicated that events including kite night, which is a free family event with professional kite flyers and activities for kids, shall take place on June 12, 2025 and August 14, 2025. Beach Bash, which is a fun family event with live music, food trucks, and games on the beach, will take place on July 12, 2025 and the craft fair will take place on August 2, 2025 with over 30+ vendors, raffles and much more.

13. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the April 19, 2025, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.