

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by Secretary, John Clarke beginning the May 16, 2026 OBVTA General Membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of silence was conducted by the OBVTA Board of Directors for those who have passed away in wars around the world. 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; President, Anthony Colucci, Vice President, Paul Jeffrey, Secretary, John Clarke, Treasurer, Debbie Barton, Joan Stranthern and Gail D’Amico.
4. Quorum – Secretary, John Clarke, determined that as 40 members of the membership were present at the meeting that a quorum was established.
5. Minutes – The minutes from the April 18, 2025 General Membership meeting were presented and accepted by a vote of the General Membership.
6. Treasurer’s Report - The Treasurer’s Report was presented by the OBVTA Treasurer, Debbie Barton. Dues payments for the month of March totaled \$420.00 and year-to-date, \$425.00. Total income for the month was \$420.00 and total income for the year-to-date was \$1,817.00. Expenses were limited as well with \$112.00 for the neon fee. Total expenses year-to-date amounted to \$336.00 and for the month \$112.00. This leaves net income year-to-date of \$1,456.00 and net income for the month of \$290.00. Total cash on hand including our investments, money market and checking total \$67,078.42.

Paul had done some research on the membership and there were apparently 188 duplicate memberships in our Neon system that he has cleared up. There were also old memberships from 2024 and 2025 (some of the 2025 are obviously still active) that need to be cleared out as well. We have a list of new owners from Tim O’Shea that show there are 70 new owners and we will be doing a letter to

them to attempt to elicit new memberships. According to the information we have on our books at the current time, we have total memberships of 589 and 19 business memberships.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously by the General Membership.

7. Guest Speaker – Our guest speaker for the May General Membership meeting was Joe Marra who is actively involved with both the Friends of Island Beach State Park as well as Island Beach State Park itself. Joe Marra gave an extremely informative and entertaining speech on behalf of Island Beach State Park. Much discussion was had concerning the activities, programs, history, and overall information concerning the upcoming season for Island Beach State Park. The programs and information concerning nature walks and activities can be referenced to the Island Beach State website which has a calendar and listing of all said activities. There was also some discussion as to the “shacks” that are being torn down in Island Beach State Park. There has been much discussion as to these activities and the Friends of Island Beach State Park are actively trying to preserve at least one of the shacks to avoid them from being torn down. People have lived in these shacks for many, many years and are now being forced out of these homes as they are being torn down. The Friends of Island Beach State Park are looking to preserve at least one of the shacks and are looking to possibly have at least one of the shacks set forth as a historical sight in the hopes that it will be preserved. If you are interested in preserving some of the history of the Island Beach State Park in the terms of these shacks, it is encouraged to write to your local congressman in an attempt to become involved in these activities.

Joe Marra did, in fact, give a very informative presentation about Island Beach State Park and his participation is greatly appreciated by the OBVTA Board of Directors as well as the General Membership itself.

8. Annual Plant Giveaway – The annual plant giveaway took place at the May General Membership meeting. Tickets were handed out at the General Membership meeting for members who attended the meeting and following the meeting were then able to go over to our Vice President, Paul Jeffrey's house where his driveway was packed with flowers that were given out to the membership. This is always a very popular activity presented by the OBVTA and is well received by our members.

9. Update from Councilman Bianchini – Councilman Bianchini was unable to attend our May General Membership meeting but he did send his regrets and asked that the Board of Directors convey what has been taking place. Councilman Bianchini has been very active in pursuing some of the questions that were presented to him at the April meeting including items involving cleaning up the area around the Pickle Ball courts and potentially looking at a timer to help turn off the lights at an earlier hour, particularly in the winter months. In addition, he is looking at some issues at Bayside Park in an attempt to clean up and beautify that area. Councilman Bianchini has reached out to the State to discuss what could be done with the parking situation and the crowds surrounding Jerry's Fruit and Vegetable stands. He is waiting to hear back from the State on that issue. Likewise, he has also reached out to the State to discuss the replacement of a yield sign in the service road nearby to the CVS Pharmacy with the hopes to have the yield sign turned into a stop sign to help alleviate a potentially dangerous situation. In addition, he is addressing the parking at the intersection of 6th Avenue and Bay Boulevard and hopefully have the areas painted as no parking near the corners to help line of sight issues in that area. Mr. Bianchini was also scheduled to meet with the Ocean County Representatives at the property in Ortley owned by Ocean County in an attempt to help clean up the inside of the area where all of the trucks are parked but also to clean up the area surrounding the fencing in an attempt to make these areas more aesthetically pleasing.

Overall the Board of Directors is very happy with the cooperation it has been receiving from Councilman Bianchini and look forward to working with him in the future.

10. Update from Toms River Police Chief, Guy Maire – Guy Maire sent an update to the OBVTA indicating that he was unable to attend our meeting due to scheduling conflicts however, he did give us an update. There will be no reduction in the level of police or EMS coverage throughout the summer season and additional officers will be added to assist with the summer population. This will include crossing guards and special law enforcement officers. The Toms River Police Department is also actively training on the new E-Bike and juvenile laws. The emergency declaration for juvenile curfew was announced again and will be in place for this summer season. The prior parting avenue study has concluded that converting the street to a one-way would move the traffic to the next street

south that allows westbound traffic. However, as we discussed, the NJDOT is planning a major traffic and pedestrian safety improvement project throughout Ortley Beach on Route 35 north and southbound. Recommendations can be made to address Harding Avenue when the public comment website opens and the in-person meeting takes place. An in person public information center meeting is being scheduled for all residents in late May or June from 6-8 pm. They need to select a date and location that will provide ample parking and room for the anticipated number of attendees.

That is the update provided by Guy Maire at this time. We are thankful for the update from our Toms River Police Chief and hope to see him at our future meetings.

A variety of other topics were brought up including but not limited to a broken pole on the island out in front of CVS that is a hazard and should be removed. Also, the basketball courts have broken backboards that need to be replaced and the buildings in and around the lifeguard houses need to be updated and kept up so that they do not look as run down as they have in the past. Also, addresses were issues of scams and the cleaning up of the bushes and trees on or around Bay Boulevard. On July 10th there is a project involving Save the Barnegat Bay and on June 27th there will be a membership drive at the lifeguard stations being presented by the OBVTA. Lastly, a shout out to Sofie's new bakery who provided us with our pastries and breakfast treats for the May meeting and who are scheduled to have their grand opening on Sunday, May 17th at 10:00 a.m.

11. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the May 16, 2026, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.