

Berkeley Shores Civic Association
Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: March 4, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Berkeley Township Rec Center

Attendees:

	Present	Not Present		Present	Not Present
Beth Collis	✓		Christine Partite	✓	
Lori Modica	✓		Sandra Durant		✓
Anthony Facciponte		✓	Peggy Felton	✓	
Marion McGrath	✓		Anthony Modica		✓
Debbie Ferreri	✓		Bob Nunn	✓	
Elizabeth Adamo		✓	Nancy Wieme		✓
			Cathy Mundry		✓
			Kathy Viso		✓

10:07 am Roll call. Please see above.

62 members in attendance

Beth Collis – President – Beth welcomed the membership and thanked everyone for coming.

Name Change

Beth began with the name change of the organization. It was proposed that we change the name of the organization to “Berkeley Shores Civic Association”. Many people mistakenly assume that our organization is an HOA and homeowners are required to pay a monthly fee. “Civic” association as opposed to “Homeowners” association better reflects what we do and our organization. There were questions from the floor concerning who would now be eligible to join. None of the by-laws have been changed regarding membership eligibility. There are people who would like to join BSCA but do not live in the area. The executive board will have a discussion to see if an Associate Non-Voting Membership should be created. Fred Bekiarian also recommended that the executive board review the membership location requirements. This topic will be discussed at the next executive board meeting and the results will be discussed at the annual meeting in June.

A question was asked about the process to change the name legally and changing the name on signage and printed materials. Beth has been working with an accountant to file all the necessary paperwork for the name change. Signs will not be replaced until they have deteriorated. Printed material will be replaced when the supply has run out. The website will change to the new name soon. A motion was made by the secretary to accept the name change. Bob Nunn seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Anthony Facciponte – 2nd Vice President & Advertising Director (*Beth reporting*)

Anthony needs some help with advertising for our website. The income generated from the advertisements helps pay for the cost of the website. If you can assist, please contact Anthony or Beth.

Debbie Ferreri – Secretary - Executive Board Nominees

The nominees were read to the attendees. Debbie also stated that there is one open position and that is Director of Procedure Manual and By-Laws review. If anyone is interested in this position and needs more information, please contact Beth. There were no nominees from the floor, so Debbie cast the one vote to accept the slate of nominees as read. The vote for the new officers will take place at the June annual meeting.

Councilman John Bacchione

Beth asked the councilman to speak about the whales washing onto the beach. Councilman Bacchione stated that on average annually 7 whales wash up onto the shore, but this year since the start of the offshore wind project more have been washed ashore. The town council has sent a resolution to the state of New Jersey to cease the project for now until more information can be found on the sound waves being used affecting the whale migration.

The Town Center (Beachwood Mall) The township has been diligently working with the redeveloper to commit to buying the property. The property is owned right now by the township which acquired it through Federal condemnation. This property encompasses 142 acres. The front 42 acres has been subdivided, and the vision is to put 3 pads in the front for stores. What stores will be there is unknown. The redeveloper has paid the fines for the contamination of the front 42 acres. The township is consistently meeting with the redeveloper to buy the property. A question was asked from the floor about the remaining back acres. There is a discussion about a PILOT program. This money that the township would receive from the PILOT would be used to clean up the contamination that exists on the back acres. Some thoughts about what could eventually be built there are athletic fields, solar field, indoor pool or skating rink. The other part of this project is to extend Western Blvd into Beachwood ending at Route 9. A meeting with the county and others will take place soon to discuss this project.

Another question was asked about the development of the property known as Blackbeard's Cave. Nothing has been submitted to the planning board for the property yet, but the cleared property adjacent to it will be self-storage units.

De annexation of South Seaside Park

This discussion has been ongoing for 7 years. South Seaside Park is 10% of Berkeley Township's tax base. A court decision recently approved the de annexation. The decision is now in the hands of the appellate court. The Township is hoping for a favorable decision so that South Seaside Park remains in Berkeley Township.

Bob Nunn – Director, Scholarship and Code

BSCA will be giving two one-thousand-dollar scholarships. The application process is completely anonymous with no interference from the executive board. The program is led by Irene and Jim Benn. The applications are at Central Regional High School and children and grandchildren of members in good standing can apply for the scholarship. The information can be found on the website. If you have a code issue, you can contact Bob and he will take a picture and will contact the code enforcement office. Bob is a realtor and he gives our website director the MLS activity to post on the website. Bob mentioned that inventory is very low in the Berkeley Shores area so right now the market is very advantageous for the seller.

Councilman Jim Byrnes

Jim wanted to expand on the discussion of the Beachwood Mall. The contamination on the back acres may be able to be encapsulated. Jim suggested a solar farm that could possibly feed the OCUA plant.

Beth called upon councilman Jim Byrnes to explain to the membership that Amherst Beach is a public beach and not exclusive to the residents of Berkeley Shores. It is maintained by the Township and owned by the state.

He also mentioned the inlet dredging that happens every year. This time some of the sand that is dredged may be added to the shore to add 8 – 10 ft to the beach.

The bulkhead project on Bowsprit Drive is \$300,000. The township is putting wave actuators to help with the waves coming over the bulkhead.

Last week Jim, and the township administrator met with the state and DEP to discuss the state wanting to take over half of the Main St. Beach. The Township plans on fighting that proposal.

Jim left business cards. If you have any issues, please contact him and he will try to assist.

Lori Modica - Membership

Lori read the passage from the By-Laws which states who can join BSCA. We will have a more detailed discussion at the next Executive Board Meeting and report back at the June Annual Meeting.

Lori explained that she works off a tax list she was given when she became Membership Director to send the annual mailing. This list consists of 1,035 waterfront homes; of these homes 365 homes have joined BSCA. There was a comment from the membership that we should allow membership only to those who live in the Berkeley Shores Community because our organization really is concerned with this area and people who live in other communities may not have the same concerns. Eligibility to join BSCA will be discussed at the next Executive Board Meeting.

Lori explained that the best way to get more people to join BSCA is to talk to your neighbors and explain the purpose of the organization. We now have a Welcome Committee that contacts all new homeowners and personally speaks with them to explain the purpose of BSCA. A question was asked if BSCA knows how many people are full time residents and how many are part time residents. BSCA does not have that information and we really don't think that affects membership.

Marion McGrath, Treasurer

Our current balance is \$20,544

Peggy Felton – Co-Social Director

In January the Social Committee held a Paint & Sip party at MaMa's Pizza. Approximately 22 people participated and a profit of \$280 was made. Peggy mentioned it wasn't about profit but about people getting together. Another party may be scheduled during the summer months.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Peggy.

March 25 – Easter Egg Hunt

Last year we hosted 80 children. There will be an ice cream truck and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The fire department also attends. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Peggy.

Veterans' Commemoration, (Blessing of the Fleet) Sat May 27

A question was asked if anyone knew a priest or minister for the blessing. A suggestion was made from the membership that someone from the Coast Guard Auxiliary could be contacted. The rec center is reserved in case of bad weather. Fred mentioned there is a program in writing which explains the process of the boat parade. Regarding food for this event a food truck could be reserved. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Peggy.

Dinner Dance June 16 – Annual meeting

There will be a brief business meeting followed by a DJ and buffet dinner. Email Peggy if you have any music suggestions. This will be a BYOB. A question was asked about non-members attending the dinner/dance. This will be discussed at the next executive board meeting.

If new members pay dues before June, they can attend the upcoming events.

Christine Partite- Director, Environmental

A tentative date of May 6 is being held for the spring clean-up of Veeder Lane, Allen Road and Bayview Ave. The township is waiting for the grant money. We need at least 12 volunteers to receive the grant from the township.

Questions and Comments from the floor

Beaches

The parking lot across from Amherst Beach has many issues. The same issues are being experienced at the Allen Road Beach. There has been a lot of noise and condoms have been found along with needles on neighbors' property. The Parks and rec department is responsible for cleaning the property. Any issues can be brought to Bob Nunn's attention or you can contact the Parks & Rec yourself. Residents feel more police patrols are needed. A suggestion was made to contact councilman Jim Byrnes for assistance

Someone cut down shrubs and trees around the Amherst Beach parking lot. This vegetation is there to prevent a collapse of the lot into the lagoon. This property belongs to the township. Please do not remove any vegetation.

Garage Sale

Last year's garage sale only had 26 homes participating. If the membership wants a garage sale the committee needs assistance. Beth will send out a survey to see if there is any interest and what month would be best.

Petition

A petition is available for members to sign regarding the whales being killed and washed up on our beaches. The petitions are asking the government to stop the wind power project going on in the ocean right now until more information can be gathered about the effects on marine mammals. You can sign the petition by going to C & C Marina on Sloop Creek. The petitions will be located outside in a bin.

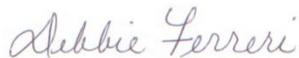
Save Barnegat Bay Presentation

Alec Boss and Gavin Shwahla of Save Barnegat Bay screened the film "*Drift*" which shares the story of the Bay's natural beauty, and as a natural, recreational and economic resource for our local community and all of New Jersey.

Our members were able to view two segments of the film. The first, explained the Barnegat Bay watershed and the geographic area it encompasses. The second segment was a round table discussion on overdevelopment, population growth and the effects on the wetlands and flooding.

Motion to adjourn: Debbie Ferreri

Adjournment: 11:15 am



Debbie Ferreri

Date Approved