

BEACH HAVEN TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION MINUTES AS AMENDED

JULY 11, 2026

Meeting Date: June 6, 2026

BHTA Board Attendees: John Hailperin, Steve Steiner, Deb Whitcraft, Pat Miller, Jack Gartland
Jim Ciulla, Marsia Mason

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of May 9th was approved unanimously by MOTION.

- **Website Update.**
John reported that the website was updated for BHTA EOC commentary that appeared in the Sandpaper 4/29 and 5 Resolutions approved by Council 4/30 related to cost change orders .
- **EOC -** Letter published April 29th in Sandpaper. BHTA issued rebuttal at May 11th Council meeting to S. Mason (see recording 4/30 of Council meeting) that GSA was never consulted as to exploring other options such as demolition and rebuilt by building trade experts.
- 2 EOC Cost Change Order Resolutions to be presented to Council June 8. MOTION passed to place these resolutions on the BHTA website.
- **2026 Municipal Budget-** 2026 Municipal Budget-BHTA at May 11th Council meeting sought a tax rate reduction from 1.5 cent to 1 cent.
- **BESS Update-** Below is a link to an article gaining traction in Beach Haven regarding the Battery Energy Storage System. MOTION passed to place on BHTA website.

https://lindabonvie.substack.com?utm_source=navbar&utm_medium=web

Public discussion ensued regarding the Battery Energy Storage System. Jim explained the public safety dangers of 15,000 pounds of lithium-ion batteries and the environmental hazards. Members of the public explained that the 2022 Land Use Board approval was under false pretenses and there is documented evidence of omissions and misrepresentation of facts by ACE. The public (Mr. Jacobson) opined that if operational there is a risk of a thermal event. Environmental hazards include not only our aquatic life but also aquifers (our drinking supply). One public member (Mr. Katsis) opined that their home is a business asset and may pursue litigation as an individual owner. He promised to share any litigation documents with BHTA. It was stated that a lithium fire is a vapor cloud that can not be

extinguished by water and yet an emergency response plan has never been provided nor has a safety study been provided.

It was stated that the public should take on a lawsuit as BESS impacts all municipalities on LBI. John indicated he would bring this idea back to JCTA. Deb indicated as a member of the Ocean County Mayors Association that she can bring this back to this group to support litigation. BHTA passed a MOTION unanimously to place the petition link on our website. See <https://c.org/K6XzFQmgdR>

- **Membership Recruitment Letter**- John reported that roughly 342 emails were sent referencing the marketing letter including the 2016 priorities, the link to the BHTA website and the membership form. 19 payments were received via Zeffy and 23 payments were received via mail. John referred the public to the membership forms which was provided at the meeting.
- **Treasurers Report**
Steve reported our checking account balance is now \$903.17 in large part to our membership drive. JCTA dues of \$100 was paid. However, our Directors and Officers insurance will be due in July.
- **JCTA Minutes Summary**-John distributed May and June minute summaries to the Board.
- **Old Business**-Increasing awareness of residential teardowns and pool installation. The goal is to address the impervious coverage zoning rules and code enforcement. After reviewing the Zoning Ordinance, Jack issued a recommendation addressing pervious coverage. The Board agreed to cover this item over to the next meeting.
- **New Business**-Deb reported there is a land coverage and code enforcement issue regarding height and setbacks impacting all residents. In addition, on June 1 she attended a Special meeting between Council, businesses and the Ocean County Engineering Department. It was well attended by all businesses. Curb bump out construction was a concern and it appears the project will not be completed until November. The teen issue in our parks continues to be raised as a concern. The LBT shuttle bus stops in town. It was also stated that we should ask Jensen-Hughes directly for the BESS safety study.

Meeting concluded by asking the public if there were any additional comments for the order they would like to make. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.