



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

September 26, 2020

Thank you for coming to this very different Annual Meeting.

I would like to say a brief word about the experience we've had this year.

Let's face it. We have gotten really good at canceling things. Bands, ice cream, beach balls, Circle Games and more. Our fellow organizations had lots to cancel too. The Bazaar, the 5 Mile Run, Pancakes, Spaghetti on and on.

But, we did not cancel everything in Cape May Point.

We did not cancel caring about each other. Over 80 face masks were donated by **Hong Le** and her family. It was a challenge getting masks early on and people appreciated them so much and gave generously to the Environment Fund as Hong had requested. Thank you, Hong.

We did not cancel appreciating the beauty in our town. When the Garden Awards could not happen this year -- **Penny Pagano** and **Jerri Hodby** invented a new **Gardens and Gardeners Celebration Video**. It is still enormously popular. Thank you -- Penny and Jerri and all who participated.

We did not cancel paying attention. We watched our government. We asked questions. We reported about its activities in the BULLETIN. We will continue to do so.

We held our first **Wintertime Community Forum** in February. The topic was the History of Food and the attendees feasted on chicken and chocolate and bugs. It was fun. We'll do more. Perhaps without the bugs.

We did not cancel celebrating --- **Ann Brecker** and **Harriet Golabiewski** -- had milestone birthdays and their family and friends organized car parades. And, I know about some new

babies and grandbabies too. Thanks to all who shared their GOOD NEWS with us. We needed it!

And, we did not cancel saying goodbye to beloved family, friends and neighbors – as best we could. To **Millie Morgan, Bill Schuhl, Pat Pagano, Jane Booth, Pecki Witonsky and other Pointers who left this year.** May they rest in Peace and may the light they shined on Cape May Point continue forever.

We didn't cancel innovating. Lead by **Ed Barnhart**, the New Projects Committee imagined an array of projects for us to consider. Thank you Ed.

We are evaluating more projects, but we already moved ahead with the first one -- the purchase of a defibrillator to have at all public events. I'm happy to announce that **Eileen Leming**, who is a retired nurse, has agreed to serve as our **Medical Services Program Director** and will be working to arrange CPR/AED training once the virus situation is resolved. Thank you, Eileen.

And, speaking of Innovating, the **Cape May Point Heritage Awards** were launched this year. We honor those who preserve and protect our natural and architectural treasures. The Taxpayers' Association shined a light on the best our town has and there are so many more BESTS to be honored in the future! The first step toward preservation is knowledge and we are proud to have helped the Point take a new step in that direction.

Yes, we missed a lot this year, but we still have so much that unites us and serves to demonstrate our commitment to our beloved Point. Your membership, your donations and your involvement make that possible. So thank you ALL.

FINANCES

Last year, at the Annual Meeting, you approved a change in the Association's By-Laws that permitted us to retain a CPA firm to conduct a Financial Review of the Association's finances. That had never been done before and our Board felt that an outside review was good, fiscal practice.

The results of the 2019 Financial Review are posted on the Taxpayers's website under Info & Links. I encourage you to take a look.

This year, this very unusual year, we held our own financially. Here are the Highlights so far:

Dues income so far: \$11,571

Unassigned Donations (Where Funds are Most Needed) so far: \$11,376

We are slightly ahead of 2019 on Unassigned Donations and Dues should be equivalent by Year End with new Memberships and Renewals due in the 4th Quarter.

The Environment Fund is off about \$1,400 compared to all of 2019. But, our reserves are more than enough to cover our expenses from that Fund for the Dunes, Triangle Park, the Circle and the Entrance Gardens.

Total Cash on Hand is \$92,671.

Memberships - As of today, we have **810** Members in the Association. Our formal Membership outreach has been very limited this year and we had no public events to offer. Our

membership is stable because Pointers are encouraging one another to join. Thank you. If you have neighbors who are not members, please let us know and we will send them an Introductory Packet.

Speaking of Memberships – half of you took advantage of the new ONLINE capability – far more than we anticipated in this first year. Thank you.

REMINDER: Memberships now expire at 12 months instead of by Calendar year, so whenever you joined or renewed, that's the starting point. The Membership system will alert you by email when your membership is **30 days away from expiration**.

If you cannot renew online, we will send you the information you need to renew by mail. More details will be provided in the BULLETIN and in the January mailing with the 2021 issue of POINTERS.

I'd like to express our thanks to those Directors whose terms are expiring this year. Lance Lipset, Sandy Allison, Patty McKenna – thank you for your service to the Taxpayers' Association and to Cape May Point. Leadership is a very precious commodity because it is so rare.

We all deeply appreciate the contributions, time and talents on behalf of our Association and community. Personally, I will say that working with a Board of Directors that is so talented and positive and innovative and generous is a joy. Thank you.

Finally, reminders about 2 upcoming events –

The Municipal Candidates Forum next Saturday at 5pm on ZOOM. We will send Members your logon credentials for accessing the Forum on ZOOM next week.

The following Saturday – Dunes and More Day – October 10 - registration will be at the Fire House and at Triangle Park beginning at 10am. **Jon Westcott** has arranged for lots of dunes plants and **Wendy Paggioli and Patti Schuhl** will be overseeing the work at Triangle Park - including the very popular planting of the Boat.

Please come. Masks and gloves will be provided and there will be grab n' go hoagies for lunch for all volunteers.

Thank you again for coming and for your continued support and involvement in the Taxpayers' Association.

--Constance Campanella