



December 21, 2023

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Members:

Thank you for being a Member of LBT10 and your continuing support!

As 2023 draws to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to summarize what we have accomplished or devoted effort to on your behalf during the year, and some of what we plan for 2024.

1. Our Actions on Your Priorities from the January 2023 Survey:

- **“Chronic Flooding”** – The initial Resilient LBI (“RLBI”) Project has been completed with the issuance of a “working” report in October 2022. As you may know, the purpose of this project is to address LBI’s short-term and long-term resilience in response to the risks and challenges presented by increasing development and climate change. The six LBI municipalities are now engaged in analyzing the comprehensive description of issues and recommended actions contained in the RLBI report, determining priorities for action, considering resource requirements and funding availability with respect to both the projects identified in the RLBI report and other projects they have been planning or implementing. As previously mentioned to you, addressing this critical matter will require significant and sustained commitments and efforts by all levels of government and the LBI community well into the future. As we have done over the past two years, we plan to maintain our active role in this matter.

Also, we should note that the part of the Route 72 Project in Ship Bottom is progressing, though not without some delays and inconvenience, toward delivering a solution to the chronic flooding at this critical location. Present plans are for this project to be completed by the end of 2024.

Further, we continue to provide our Members with considerable material on this and related subjects for their consideration. Please refer to our website (re: LBI Resiliency Efforts) at:

<https://lbt10.org/useful-links>

- **Offshore Wind Farm Development** – This item rose from sixth priority in 2022 to second priority in 2023 in our Membership surveys. In March, our Members participated in a survey conducted by the Joint Council of Taxpayers Association of LBI (“JCTA”) regarding this matter. This survey indicates that 76.9% of respondents do not support offshore wind farm development off LBI at all or the proposed project, 9.4% need more information to decide, and 13.7% are in support of the project. On the basis of the results of these surveys, and the conclusions reached from our own study of the environmental and economic issues and impacts of offshore wind development, the Board of Trustees of LBT10 passed the following resolution in May:

In consideration of the significant concerns expressed by our Membership in recent surveys, the LBT10 Taxpayers Association supports Long Beach Township, SaveLBI, and others in their efforts to bring a pause in the progress of the proposed wind farm projects off our beaches until such time that the environmental and economic impacts of such facilities can be clearly demonstrated to be acceptable.

Further, we have obtained a consultant’s study which describes the significant adverse impact of the proposed New Jersey offshore wind farm program on State electricity rates for consumers. We have shared this study with the Long Beach Township (“Township”) leadership and SaveLBI, and sent it to Governor Murphy, with a copy to our Federal and State legislators and other appropriate people in December. A copy of the study and the transmittal letter was sent to all Members, and can be viewed on our website (re: Offshore Wind Farm Information/Letter to Gov. Murphy: New Jersey Offshore Wind Program Cost) at:

<https://lbt10.org/useful-links/>

In addition, we invited Cindy Zipf, of Clean Ocean Action, to speak at our June 24, 2023, Membership Meeting on the subject of offshore wind farm development and other matters related to the “industrialization” of the oceans.

Finally, along with the JCTA, we continued to provide our Members with considerable material on this subject for their consideration. Please refer to our website (re: Offshore Wind Farm Information) at:

<https://lbt10.org/useful-links/>

- **Beach Erosion/Replenishment** – This matter is monitored by a committee of the JCTA, which currently advises that the LBI federally funded beach replenishment project, which is managed by Federal and State agencies, that was initially scheduled for 2023, will probably not commence until the fall of 2024. The reason for this is that Monmouth County’s project bids came in too high, which produced delays in the project process and a lawsuit. As LBI is second in line to Monmouth County, we must await the resolution of that county’s project issues before our

project can proceed. This delay has caused concern as to how the LBI beaches will be maintained beyond the limited capabilities and resources of the six LBI municipalities to address beach erosion after storms. Certain installations and repairs at particular locations are critical to the long-term condition and resilience of the beaches, which can only be completed under the federally funded project. About \$32 million has been appropriated to fund the LBI project, but it is unclear how many years that funding is intended to cover.

- **Government Affairs (Commissioners' and Land Use Board Matters)** – We have attended the monthly Township Commissioners' and Land Use Board meetings to keep abreast of developments to assess the impact on our Members and communities. However, we have come to realize that to be effective in this matter we need to increase our participation in meeting attendance and research. Some 40 Members indicated in their applications that they are interested in supporting LBT10's efforts in these areas. We are now organizing our efforts in these areas, and plan to have a more robust involvement in 2024 and beyond.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Related Issues** - Based on much feedback from our Members, we have prepared a comprehensive list of bicycle and pedestrian safety and related issues and suggested solutions for discussion with the Township leadership. Some of these issues are now being addressed by the Township, such as expanded deployment of bicycle racks at beach access points and signs posted on the beach access walkway railings prohibiting the attachment of bicycles. We believe much more needs to be done. We plan to review these issues and proposed solutions at the monthly Township Commissioners' meetings during the off season with a view to having as many of them as possible addressed for the summer 2024 season.

2. We Held Three Membership Meetings: Following are summaries of the Membership Meetings held in 2023:

- **February 19, 2023** – Where the guest speakers were Ann Barkey, who described the activities of the JCTA, of which she is the Secretary; and Jack Casella, President, Beach Haven First Aid Squad (“BHFAS”), John Volpe, Captain, BHFAS, and Rick McDonough, President, Ship Bottom Volunteer Fire Co, who spoke on the operations and issues of the First Responders serving LBI.
- **June 24, 2023** – Where, as mentioned above, the guest speaker was Cindy Zipf, of Clean Ocean Action, who spoke on the subject of offshore wind farm development and other matters related to the “industrialization” of the oceans.
- **September 9, 2023** – Where the guest speaker was Mayor Mancini, who conducted a Q&A session addressing the Offshore Wind Farm project, flood intervention projects, beach replenishment and other matters.

To view the agendas and materials for these meetings, please refer to our website at:

<https://lbt10.org/meetings/>

3. We Improved Our Internal Processes:

- **Square Invoicing Platform** – We launched our Square invoicing platform in May to make it easier for Members to pay their annual dues. This platform allows Members to pay their dues by credit card, as well as by VENMO or check as they prefer.
- **Website** – We continually update our website with fresh and useful information for the benefit of our Members. Our website contains a substantial amount of information and external links designed to provide our Members with a comprehensive single source of reference on a number of matters. If you have not yet visited the website, please go to:

<https://lbt10.org>

- **Audit Committee Operational** – The Audit Committee was formed and conducted its first review of the financial transactions processes and key operational activities. Based upon the review, the Audit Committee has determined that the financial processes and conduct of key operational activities are being performed in a manner that is in accordance with the By-Laws, and is adequate to preserve the assets of, and to avoid unintended liabilities and risks to, LBT10. Further, the financial statements prepared by LBT10 fairly present the financial position and changes in net assets for the reporting periods. To view the full Audit Committee report, please refer to our website (re: Audit Committee Report) at:

<https://lbt10.org>

4. We Conducted a Membership Drive:

Between June and August, we conducted another Membership Drive through the use of targeted mailings. The Drive resulted in 145 new Members joining, which is an increase of about 36% over the 406 Members we had at the start of 2023. We now have 551 Members, and we are committed to further increasing our Membership. Accordingly, we are now reviewing our options for conducting another Membership Drive in 2024 to focus on those areas of our communities which could be better covered than in prior Membership Drives.

Our Members are our most valued asset...and the more Members we have the more views we have... and the louder our voice!

5. Some of Our Other Plans for 2024:

- **Catastrophic Storm Preparation** – We plan to gain an understanding of the arrangements that are in place or under consideration by the six LBI municipalities and other appropriate authorities to deal with a catastrophic event. Once obtained, we will communicate our understanding to our Members.
- **Southern Regional School District (“SRSD”) Property Tax Allocation to LBI** – After conducting a review of the present arrangements for the property tax allocation and representation on the SRSD school board as between the six LBI municipalities and Stafford Township, we believe that consideration should be given to possible adjustments to the arrangements to make them less inequitable to the LBI taxpayers. Accordingly, we plan to approach the responsible officials to discuss these matters.
- **Membership Survey** - We plan to conduct another Membership Survey in January 2024 to gauge Member interest priorities to focus on in 2024.
- **Committee Expansion and Member Support** – We plan to expand our committees to reflect the interests of our Members and seek increased participation by our Members in these and other committees. The new committees we plan are:
 - Safety Committee
 - Hospitality/Membership Meeting Committee
 - Fund Raising Committee
 - Newsletter Committee

If you are interested in participating on these committees or any other Committee, please reach out to me at whmalone@gmail.com, or at 201-615-2603. You can also reach out to any member of our Board of Trustees.

- **Beach Clean-Up** – We plan to join a beach cleaning event possibly sponsored by Clean Ocean Action, or others, in spring 2024.
- **Surflight Theatre Show and Dinner** – In August we held a “Dinner & Show” event which was attended by 28 Members and was enjoyed by all. We plan to offer it again in 2024.

We wish you and your family all the joys of the season, and a healthy and prosperous 2024!

Sincerely,

Bill Malone
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees &
President