

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE
BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HELD AT DEER PARK VEHE BARN**

January 25, 2022

Members Present: Joe Abbate – South Barrington; Bob Alberding - Barrington Township; Karen Darch - Barrington; Greg Rusteberg– Deer Park; Brian Cecola – Barrington Hills; Dave Parro – Tower Lakes

Staff Present: Kimberly Saunders - Executive Director; Mary Tarpey – Board Secretary

Others Present: John Haniotes – Barrington Bank & Trust; Jeff Weiss – Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership; Chase Blazier – Eder, Casella & Co.

Not Present: Susie Perkins – Lake Barrington; Paul McCombie – South Barrington

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Rusteberg at 7:00 pm. Roll call was taken.

DISCUSSION WITH INVITED GUESTS

- A. Rusteberg welcomed John Haniotes to thank BACOG for being a customer. He left the signature form for the new Treasurer to sign.
- B. Rusteberg welcomed Jeff Weiss, Coordinator, Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership who provided an update on the Program’s activities, including water quality testing, stream gauges collection process/data, stewardship and education programs.

Both thanked the Executive Board for the opportunity to present their updates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2021

On a motion by Parro and a second by Alberding, the minutes for November 30, 2021, were unanimously approved on a roll call vote with one amendment (page 2, Legislative Committee platform numbering).

INTRODUCTION OF CHASE BLAZIER FOR BACOG TREASURER

Saunders introduced Chase Blazier, a manager at Eder, Casella & Co., with seven years of experience in government and non-profit audits, tax levies and budgets. Eder & Casella & Co. generously contributes an employee’s time for BACOG’s Treasurer.

APPROVAL/APPOINTMENT OF CHASE BLAZIER TO THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

On a motion by Darch and a second by Alberding, Chase Blazier was unanimously approved as Treasurer.

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2021 AND PAYMENT RATIFICATION

On a motion by Darch and a second by Parro, the Treasurer’s Report for December 2021 was unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Legislative Committee (President Darch):

Darch reported that the Legislative Committee met earlier tonight to finalize the Legislative Platform and Priorities for 2022. The four Legislative priorities recommended by the Committee include: (1) Restore Local Share of LGDF / Protect Local Government Revenues; (2) Support Statewide Public Safety; (3) Empower Local Decision-Making for Meeting Formats; and (4) Protect Water Quality. The Legislative Committee recommended the Legislative Priorities and Platform for approval.

On a motion by Alberding and a second by Darch, the recommendation of the Legislative Committee was accepted and the 2022 Legislative Priorities and Platform were adopted.

Saunders reported that BACOG joined a coalition of COGs this week on a letter to the Governor urging support for the current bills re: LGDF restoration to 8% (sponsored by DeLuca/DeWitte/Murphy).

Darch reported that there are a few bills in Committee this week that fall squarely within BACOG's Legislative Priorities. Saunders will information about how to file Witness Slips for each of the following bills in case any members want to indicate positions on behalf of their respective communities:

HB 4169 (Increase LGDF to 8%).

HB 308 (Extends amortization of Downstate Police and Fire Pensions).

HB 4295 (exemptions to lead line replacement obligations).

Northwest Water Planning Alliance (President McCombie):

Abbate reported that NWPA will meet on Thursday, January 27. The executive committee has adjusted its meeting schedule to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from 11am-1pm, every other month.

MEMBER REPORTS

Barrington: Darch reported that the 2022 Strategic Plan includes capital improvement, lead line replacement, Phase 2 of the Route 14 Underpass project and water meter replacement.

Barrington uses an independent contractor attorney for day-to-day issues and a separate employment specialist. The Village hired a new Events and Marketing Manager to replace Patty Dowd Schmitz. The first-ever "Brrington Winter Fest" family event will be held on Saturday, February 26, 11am – 2:00pm in the Barrington Metra Lot. The 5th Annual Town Warming, "Security in a Post-Pandemic World" is this Saturday, February 5. Robert Gates, the former U.S. Secretary of Defense and CIA Director, is the keynote speaker. He will join via livestream after lunch.

Barrington Hills: Cecola reported the Barrington Hills Board appointed Darby Hills as a Trustee to fulfill the remainder of Deb Buettner's term. The Board recently approved its budget and lowered its levy for the 7th year in a row, and approved the addition proposed by Countryside Elementary School. Barrington Hills is saving \$160,000 with a new snow plow contractor. Barrington Hills recently hired an independent contractor attorney for zoning issues.

Tower Lakes: Parro reported that Tower Lakes 2022 Objectives include finalizing the Village Hall floor plan options. The Board is looking into capital projects other than roads and bridges. Tower Lakes uses the same Attorney as the Village of Barrington. There are several parcels of land along the northern Tower Lakes border that are potential candidates for annexation, but there are no firm development plans.

Barrington Township: Alberding reported that the Township Food Pantry recently established non-profit status with its own Board to govern it. Nearly 45 individuals rely on the Pantry, which has recently been renovated to be more user friendly.

South Barrington: Abbate reported that South Barrington is working with a professional to assist the Village in updating its comprehensive plan, which has identified several development parcels in, the Village. There are two significant development proposals on the drawing board for review: A commercial development on the former Allstate site at Higgins and Bartlett Road. A residential development on Palatine Road consisting of 65 proposed residential lots. South Barrington outsources one primary attorney along with two specialists.

Deer Park: Rusteberg reported that Deer Park Town Center, although 96% leased, lost Starbucks and Panera, and continues to struggle financially. The Deer Park Village Board approved and filed the creation of the TIF district. Deer Park continues to solicit the annexation of seven properties, of which it has five. The Town Center will host a St. Patrick's Day 5k and 10k Run.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Saunders provided an update on membership outreach. Discussions continue with North Barrington re: potential future involvement with BACOG. Saunders also asked for members' assistance connecting with the new leadership at Cuba Township regarding their current grant funding and interest in future partnerships.

BACOG staff is working with the Smart Salting Initiative to prepare a Parking Lots and Sidewalk Manual to assist continued efforts to reduce chloride levels in the area's groundwater while providing safe surfaces throughout the winters.

The Healthier Barrington Coalition is finalizing the survey for Barrington area residents. Information and survey links will be sent to members as soon as it is ready for distribution. Saunders asked all members to help encourage their residents to complete the survey to help inform government services and non-profit program development in the region.

RTA continues its work on its Strategic Plan. Saunders will participate in a workshop on the Plan on January 26th.

BACOG joined other regional COGs in sending a joint letter to the Governor this week urging support for pending legislation that would restore LGDF to 8%. Saunders will distribute a copy of the final letter as soon as it's available.

Work continues on restructuring the sponsorship / community partnership program. Saunders requested information from the members on discussions in previous years about goals for the program and BACOG's tax status.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Alberding and second by Abbate, the meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:22 pm. The February 22, 2022, board meeting will be held at Lake Barrington Village Hall.

Submitted by:

Mary Tarpey, Secretary