



Part of the traditional process of running for Bethany Beach Town Council is receiving a list of questions from BBLA (the Bethany Beach Landowners Association).

BBLA mails the candidate's responses to all town households. Each candidate receives the same questions at the same time. The answers are published exactly as provided by the candidate with one page allocated to each candidate. The newsletter is mailed to all 2650 households on the tax list which contain the approximately 4500 eligible voters.

This year there are five candidates for four open seats. They are R. Bruce Frye, Jack Gordon, Rosemary Hardiman, Lew Killmer, Margaret Bogan Young. Voting may done in person on Saturday, September 6 at Town Hall or prior to that date by absentee ballot in person at Town Hall or by mail. See below for more details on the Town website.

BBLA, founded in 1969, has been doing this for many years and many elections. The Board views this as a service to the over 1100 BBLA member households and to the entire community.

The questions were drafted by a three person committee of the BBLA Board with review by several other Board members. In order to avoid even the appearance of unfairness, no member of the BBLA Board who is also a candidate for Council, or a family member of a candidate for Council, played any role in drafting these questions and will not have seen the questions or any drafts of questions until all candidates receive the questions.

Below are this year's questions. For readability and space the full question is shown only on the first candidate's response, as was the practice last year.

- 1. Background and experience.** Please provide a short summary of your background and experience related to serving on Town Council?
- 2. Looking forward.** What, in your opinion, are the two most important issues the Town Council will have to address in the next two years, and how would you address those issues?
- 3. Looking Back.** With the benefit of hindsight and elapsed time, are there any specific Council actions taken within the past year that could have been improved and if so, how?
- 4. Communication between the Council and voters.** The Town has several ways of giving information to voters but communication is a two way street. What if anything would you do as an individual Council member to keep abreast of the views of the voters?

The election notice on the town website is found at:

<http://townofbethanybeach.com/index.aspx?nid=362>

R. Bruce Frye

1. Background and experience. Please provide a short summary of your background and experience related to serving on Town Council

My interest in Town Council was piqued by first being a passive attendee at meetings and grew to active membership on 3 committees: the Board of Adjustment, Charter & Ordinance Review, and the July 4th Parade. While my educational and professional background is in science and industry (PhD from MIT, 30yrs at the General Electric Company), I sought out opportunities to learn about town government. I took the University of Delaware public administration courses on Master Planning, and Board of Adjustment. I was born in Delaware, spent summers at the beach, and continued that tradition with my own family at Bethany Beach for 20 years. We became full time residents in 2010 and I have served as president of our home owners association for the past 3 years.

2. Looking forward. What, in your opinion, are the two most important issues the Town Council will have to address in the next two years, and how would you address those issues?

Maintaining fiscal health is always an important issue because it largely determines what else can be done. Bethany Beach has a sound fiscal policy but will require constant attention and long term planning to maintain; as a councilmember I would support strong fiscal controls and address issues sooner rather than later; (2) Nature will be an ever increasing concern whether it is storms, sea level rise, or beach erosion. The Town will need to seek creative ways to prepare for and adapt to Nature, and to ensure new building projects include sea level rise among their considerations. My scientific background will help in seeking and evaluating alternative approaches for the Town.

3. Looking Back. With the benefit of hindsight and elapsed time, are there any specific Council actions taken within the past year that could have been improved and if so, how?

The Council did a good job communicating the new water tower placement and the hotel decisions by mailing detailed information and holding public meetings. One event that could have been handled better was the Church-Neff park where many folks were surprised by the sudden disappearance of the diseased trees. It looked as if decisions about the use of the property had already been made without community input. A better approach would have been to communicate the plan first (through the town website, local papers, the BBLA, etc.), to explain what was contemplated and why.

4. Communication between the Council and voters. The Town has several ways of giving information to voters but communication is a two way street. What if anything would you do as an individual Council member to keep abreast of the views of the voters?

I would continue to seek the views of residents through informal discussions whether on the boardwalk, at the gym or other venues, and provide timely responses to calls and emails. I will commit to not only attending local meetings (such as the BBLA) but being an active listener and participant.

Jack Gordon

- 1. Background and experience.** I retired in 1999 as Chief Financial Officer of Navy Federal Credit Union (a \$23 billion organization at that time) and moved permanently to Bethany Beach. Prior to my career at NFCU, I served as an officer in a computer consulting firm and before that as an officer in the United States Navy after graduating from UCLA. After retiring to Bethany Beach, I served for eight years as President of Lake Bethany HOA, and I have spent many hours volunteering on town committees, for the Friends of the South Coastal Library, the Center for the Inland Bays, Make a Wish Foundation and other organizations. Upon being elected to the Bethany Beach Town Council in 2008, I served as Secretary/Treasurer for three years, as Vice Mayor for two and a half years and as Mayor since this March.
- 2. Looking forward.** The town has several important issues facing it. My primary concern since being elected to the Town Council has been to maintain the excellent financial position of the town. The town is strong and secure financially, and keeping Bethany healthy this way continues to be at the top of my list of priorities. Currently, we have the issue of the development of the hotel on the boardwalk. The zoning change to allow this hotel to be built was supported by 71% of the town's voters in a non-binding referendum. The Town Council and staff have been vigilant and will continue to monitor this project carefully to bring it to a successful completion in a manner that serves the best interest of the town and its residents. The flooding issue receives continual consideration in the town's attempts to ameliorate the problem, not only through minor improvements to the infrastructure but also with an ongoing study in conjunction with the Army Corp of Engineers exploring the possibilities for any solutions. We also are in the process of planning and then developing the park on the northwest corner of Routes 1 and 26, and in addition we are bringing the new water tower on line. All of these issues are being addressed in a thoughtful, businesslike manner with appropriate opportunity for and consideration of input from town residents.
- 3. Looking Back.** No. I believe that the Town Council has acted in the most responsible and effective manner possible during the past year. All of the decisions made by the council in the past year have been based on competent, informed and factual processes. We have sought and recognized input from the town's citizens through hearings, workshops, surveys and referendums, and while there has been some disagreement within the council on issues – a healthy situation - I believe we reached the correct decisions that are in the best interests of the town and its residents and property owners.
- 4. Communication between the Council and voters.** As a council member, I have had no trouble in keeping informed of the views of the voters. E-mail works two ways, and town resident are not bashful about sending in their comments, both positive and negative. These communications are distributed by town staff to all council members. Of course, we get snail mail also; everything sent to the town is placed in a reading file for council members. I am personally contacted by town residents on the street, on the beach, at events around town and by telephone. And, of course, our town hearings and workshops, surveys such as that on the park, the non-binding referendum on the hotel and the referendum on the water tower are direct lines of feedback from interested citizens. Communication is truly a two way street in the Town of Bethany Beach.

Rosemary Hardiman

I want to thank the BBLA for providing this public service for voters.

1. **Background and Experience.** I have served as a Member of the Town Council since March 2014. Since 2004 when my husband, Jerry, and I moved to Bethany Beach, full-time, I have served on various Town committees: Communications (as member and chair), Recycling and Charter and Ordinance Review, as Election Officer and member of the Election Board. In related experience, I serve as Vice President of the Sussex County Library Advisory Board and represent Sussex County on the State Council of Libraries. In my prior management and professional life, I served as Secretary of the Board and Deputy Executive Director of a federal agency, the National Credit Union Administration; and later as an attorney in private practice representing credit union clients in resolution of disputes and providing legal advice on management issues.

2. **Looking Forward.** While the Town Council undoubtedly will face many issues over the next two years, I consider two on-going issues to be important: 1) Beach replenishment. In 2007/2008 the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers designated Bethany Beach to be part of their 50-year beach replenishment project. Because of competition with other federal and state priorities, I believe we must continue to refine and implement strategies, including working closely with our legislators to ensure continuation of funding for this important asset. 2) Fiscal Health. I believe we must be vigilant to ensure that the Town's sound financial health continues. We weathered the last financial downturn well because of sound fiscal policies and planning for the future. This must continue.

3. **Looking Back.** We can all benefit from review of past performance. A recent Council decision comes to mind. At the July 18 meeting, an agreement between the Town and Bethany Boardwalk Group, LLC (BBG) regarding a payment schedule for fees associated with the construction of the Group's hotel could have been better explained. The agreement, approved by a majority of Council, was misunderstood by some as giving Mr. Jack Burbage and BBG a reduction of fees or more favorable treatment. The facts do not support that conclusion. The Council did NOT agree to give Mr. Burbage any "sliding scale" or other reduction in fees. He will pay the same fees that all other property owners pay. However, legal uncertainties created by a case pending before the Delaware Supreme Court involving fees charged by Dewey Beach and recent legislation passed by the Delaware Legislature regarding taxes charged by municipalities affected the Council's deliberation. Based in large part on those uncertainties, the Council decided to allow BBG to pay the nearly \$800,000 in fees in four payments over three years in exchange for their agreement not to bring any future claim against the Town based on these fees. The cost to the Town in not being able to invest the total amount immediately over three years is far less than the potential cost of any future litigation, which would likely cost the Town hundreds of thousands of dollars. I voted for the agreement because, given the possibility that fees charged on projects of this size could be disallowed as "grossly disproportionate" to the cost of the services rendered, I felt it was fiscally responsible, fair and ultimately in the best interest of the Town. However, I could have explained my vote better.

4. **Communication between the Council and voters.** Keeping the public informed and providing opportunities for citizen input and dialogue are essential and the Council has done both. It has explained and actively solicited public opinion on important issues, most recently on the proposed creation of a commercial lodging zone in Bethany and features to be included in the Town Park. Citizen input is solicited at Council meetings, workshops and hearings. Many citizens write, call Town hall or send e-mails expressing their suggestions and concerns. In the past year alone, the Town has received and handled some 12,000 e-mails on various subjects. These citizen communications are important sources of information for me and other Council members. As an individual Council member, I have actively solicited opinions and suggestions from voters with differing views on issues facing the Town. In the process I have received some very worthwhile suggestions. If elected on September 6, I will continue to actively solicit and encourage voter input on issues.

Lew Killmer

- 1. Background and experience.** During my nine years on Town Council I have served on many committees and I currently chair the Planning Commission as well as the Non-Residential Design Review Committee. I have been involved in preparing and defending two Comprehensive Plans as well as representing the Town in Dover on the Sea-Level Rise Committee and on the SB-64 Committee that dealt with flood damage prevention and stormwater management. I was also instrumental in updating the entire Town Codebook. I have successfully completed courses of instruction relating to Town Government and have received a certificate of accomplishment from the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration.
- 2. Looking forward.** The most important issue that the Town will need to address is the possible future loss of Federal and State funding for beach replenishment. The Town has been contacted by both our State and Federal representatives that in the future this could be a real possibility and one approach to deal with that possibility is for Bethany Beach along with all of the other coastal Delaware communities to come together and possibly come up with a solution that might include future cost sharing and identifying other sources of funding. The success of the creation of the EMS service from scratch by the "big four" Fenwick Island, South Bethany, Bethany Beach and Sea Colony could be used as a model to fund this possible future crisis.
The second most critical issue is the release of the "new" FEMA floodplain map sometime this year. The new FEMA map now has $\approx 80\%$ of the Town in a floodplain compared to $\approx 50\%$ in the "old" FEMA floodplain map. Currently the Town qualifies to be part of the Community Rating System (CRS) because of the Town's full compliance with FEMA regulations. Being part of the CRS program rewards homeowners who participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) a 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums. Working with the Town's Building Inspector, I am in the process of updating our Town Code related to stormwater management so that the Town will continue to be in full compliance with the new FEMA and DNREC regulations to make sure that Bethany Beach remains in the CRS program and possibly in the future qualifying for an even higher discount rate.
- 3. Looking Back.** The one event that sticks in my mind that I wished I could do over again is to have spent more time reviewing the plans regarding the removal of shrubs, bushes and trees on the Church/Neff property at the corner of Routes 26 and 1. While I have full faith and trust with the professional arborist that the Town hired if I and possibly with other members of the Town Council had taken the time to more closely review the arborist's plans, we might have been able to save a larger number of existing trees, bushes and shrubs.
- 4. Communication between the Council and voters.** The Town receives a significant number of e-mails and other forms of communication from constituents asking for information and/or making members of the Town Council aware of their concerns. My policy is and has always been to respond by e-mail, by phone or if necessary an actual visit to those individuals that have taken the time to contact the Town Council. The Town on many occasions has polled the community on a number of important issues and has always received a significant number of responses to those polls and the Town Council during my tenure has always followed the view of the majority.

Margaret Bogan Young

- 1. Background and experience.** Sponsored the joint study with the Army Corps of Engineers to discover solutions to our flood and drainage problems in the north section of town. Worked to enact “no parking” regulations and lower speed limits on Kent Ave. Supported the construction of an additional water tower. Attended several Sussex County Council meetings in opposition to the AT & T tower on Rt. 1. Supported Maryland Ave. residents against the installation of exercise equipment in their “backyards”. Serve on the Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee since 2004 and researched forty historic sites for its marker program. Sponsored the installation of a plaque at the Loop Canal in recognition of Bethany’s only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Henry Clay Drexler. I serve on St. Ann’s Pastoral Council and the boards of the Farmers’ Market (in charge of volunteer recruitment and scheduling) and the Bethany Beach Landowners Association (BBLA) (coauthored 2014 major rewrite of its publication “Bethany Beach: A Walk Through History”, first produced in 1976). I’ve been a member of the Women’s Civic Club of Bethany Beach for 41 years, serving as secretary for nine years. I mentor at John M. Clayton School and participate in DE Read Aloud at Lord Baltimore School.
- 2. Looking forward.** The development of the next Comprehensive Plan is of the greatest importance, with special attention needed for any rezoning proposals. In order for residents to have a better understanding of the impact of changes and an ability to express their views about them, the town should do a first-class, university – developed questionnaire , so that Council will have the benefit of really up to date information about how citizens feel about Bethany’s community character and sense of place. The finalization of plans, along with the development of the future Town Park, located at Rt. 1 and 26, should be based on residents’ views, as expressed in the town wide survey. Careful consideration must be given to the park’s costs, bearing in mind that it will require upkeep through its future in order to maintain its pleasing condition. Serious decisions need to be made in regard to the park’s safety, due to its location at the intersection of Rt. 1 and 26.
- 3. Looking Back.** There should have been much more information provided to the public on the rezoning issue, perhaps a referendum held, so that residents could express their opinions of the changes and increase their understanding that rezoning residential areas to commercial could set a precedent that would prove difficult to reverse. The traditional balance between residential family atmosphere and commercial operations must be preserved. In July, 2011, Bethany entered into an agreement to partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study of the flooding of the northern area of town. Thus far, we have received very little information regarding the progress of the study. We should have been, and should be, more vigilant in requiring up to date progress reports.
- 4. Communication between the Council and voters.** While the Town does a good job of telling citizens about selected projects, e.g. Church-Neff park, much more needs to be done to encourage citizens to communicate directly with its elected council members, in person and in detail, to express their views and concerns with the issues, e.g. boardwalk expansion. Phone us, email us, write a letter, stop us on the street, or make a personal visit. I promise, as I have in the past, always to be available to listen to your concerns and assist you whenever possible.

How to Vote

THREE WAYS TO CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR BETHANY BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

VOTING IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Bethany Beach Town Hall is the polling place, and the election is set for Saturday, September 6, 2014, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. Be sure to bring proper identification.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON (ONE-STEP, WALK IN PROCESS)

You may vote in person by visiting Town Hall anytime from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on the last three (3) SATURDAYS in August (August 16th, August 23rd and August 30th). Saturday hours are also 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ask for the official request form (affidavit) for an absentee ballot, complete the form and return it. You will then be given your absentee ballot. Mark the names of the candidates of your choice, following the instructions very carefully, and hand in your ballot then and there.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL (TWO STEPS)

You must obtain, complete and return an official request for an absentee ballot. A copy of the official request form (an affidavit) is enclosed. You can also obtain an affidavit by calling Town Hall at (302) 537-3771, stopping by the receptionist's window in Town Hall, or downloading a copy at www.townofbethanybeach.com Click on Government, then Elections, then Absentee Ballot Information.

Complete and sign the request form and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person. When your absentee ballot arrives, complete it with care, follow all of the instructions, and return it to Town Hall, by mail or in person.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS

Bethany Beach property owners (everyone on the deed up to a maximum of eight (8) persons) are automatically registered and eligible to vote in municipal elections.

If you have lived in Bethany Beach as a full-time resident for six (6) months or longer, you are eligible to vote in the election regardless of whether you own property. However, you must register to vote 30 days prior to the election.

BBLA Questions for Five candidates for Bethany Beach Town Council.

For many years BBLA has posed questions to candidates for the Bethany Beach Town Council and sent their answers to all households. This year there are five candidates. Each has a page and their answers are in their own wording.

This year there are four Questions. They are based on Background and Experience relevant to serving on town council, Looking Forward, Looking Back, and Communications.

BBLA encourages citizens to become familiar with the issues and candidates and to vote.

Voting Basics

1. Any property owner is registered to vote
2. Polls are open from noon to 6 on Saturday Sept 6 at the Town Hall
3. Absentee Ballots are available at Town Hall or by mail from the Town.
4. Voters may vote prior to Sept 6 by absentee ballot, either by mail or in one visit to Town Hall from 8 to 4 on weekdays or from 8 to 4 on the last three Saturdays of August.
5. The Town is mailing information on voting procedures. More information is available at the Town website or by phoning the Town at 302-539-8011 or e-mail admin@townofbethanybeach.com

The UPS Store
Proof #2
August 4, 2014