

July 21, 2017, by Tracy Mulligan

For many years, BBLA has mailed a “Candidates Newsletter to all households in the Town prior to the Town of Bethany Beach Town Council Election. This is only in a contested election- more candidates file than there are seats open. It is a tight deadline. For example in 2017

July 22—Questions for Candidates are determined

July 26- Filing deadline for candidates

July 26- Questions e-mailed to candidates (get e-mail addresses from Lisa in Town admin.)

Aug 3- Responses due

Aug 4 Compiling all responses and sending to UPS store for formatting

Aug 6- Approval of final copy

Aug 10 Mailing

Aug 16 Newsletters received.

Absentee voting- begins about Aug 19 although procedures for this year not posted yet.

Sept 9 Election in person voting at Town Hall

A number of past e-mails are shown below to use a basis for the future

Questions from BBLA related to running for BB Town Council

7/26/2013 4:51 PM

tmulligan@comcast.net

To joseph.bellistri@irsd.k12.de.us Copy [JOHN HIMMELBERG](#)

Mr Bellistri

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). On behalf of John Himmelberg, President of BBLA, I am sending you this year's list and asking for your response by Aug 1.

BBLA sends the candidates' answers to all town households in a newsletter. Each candidate receives the same questions; the answers are published exactly as provided by the candidate. The newsletter goes to all 2700 households which contain the approximately 4500 eligible voters.

BBLA, founded in 1969, has been doing this for many years and many elections. The Board views this as a service to the 900 BBLA member households and to the entire community.

Below are this year's questions.

1. **Background and Experience.** Please provide a short summary of your background and experience related to serving on Town Council.
2. **Looking Forward.** What are the three most important issues or goals facing the Town in the next five years and how would you recommend that they be addressed?
3. **Looking Back.** Please identify two or three Council actions you consider to have been most beneficial to our community during the last two years. Are there any that you think should be reconsidered?
4. **Rezoning.** Are you for or against the proposed Commercial Lodging (CL-1) rezoning? Please explain your position.

Please respond by 4 PM on Thursday Aug 1. If that timing presents a problem, please contact me as early as possible. Have no more than one page, approximately 500 to 600 words. If there are questions, please contact me at this e-mail or by phone or text on 240-687-3841.

Tracy Mulligan

Recording Secretary, BBLA

240-687-3841

RE: Questions from BBLA related to running for BB Town Council

8/1/2013 3:28 PM

[Bellistri Joseph](#)

To tmulligan@comcast.net

hi tracy,

thanks for the opportunity to respond to these questions.

The information is attached.

take care,

joe b

Re: Questions from BBLA related to running for BB Town Council

8/1/2013 4:09 PM

tmulligan@comcast.net

To [Bellistri Joseph](#)

Joe

Thank you,

Tracy

240-687-3841

BBLA newsletter- responses from all seven candidates. Aug 23 Candidates night

8/9/2013 8:23 PM

tmulligan@comcast.net

To [Bellistri Joseph](#)

Joe

Thank you for your response to the BBLA questions to candidates for town council. Attached is the BBLA newsletter that has the responses from all seven candidates. It is being mailed to all 2700 households in Bethany Beach and is now posted on the BBLA website. (www.bbla.info)

You have probably heard of this. The Coastal Point has agreed to hold "Meet the Candidates Night" at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23rd at Town Hall. (BBLA does not plan to hold a Candidates Night this year, feeling it would be duplicative.)

Tracy Mulligan

240-687-3841

Possible BBLA Questions for candidates if there is a town election

7/29/2015 8:21 AM

tmulligan@comcast.net

To [Robin Baxter](#), [CBBaldwin](#) and 7 others

BBLA Board

Mike asked I send these 5 potential questions for candidates for Town Council.

I would ask you give me the numbers of your top three questions. We may use 3, 4 or all 5.

As of yesterday three candidates had filed for the three available seats. Those are Chuck Peterson, Joe Healy, and Jerry Morris. Jerry Dorfmann did not file to date.

1. Please list the elements of your background and experience that in your opinion make you a strong candidate for a position on the town council.
2. We assume that like most Bethany Beach property owners and visitors you believe it is important to maintain the historic character of this community as a family oriented "quiet resort." What specific measures, if any, would you advocate as a member of the town Council for achieving that goal?
3. While the Town Council has done very good things, what could be improved and what would your role be in that improvement.
4. What specific revenue raising measures, if any, do you advocate and/or oppose for the purpose of funding the newly adopted SERF program?
5. What is your position, if you have one, on how soon work should begin on developing the new Central Park (formerly known as Church-Neff) and what features should be included in the development

Tracy

From: tmulligan@comcast.net

To: [Michael Horne](#)

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 9:09:55 PM

Subject: Re: Questions for candidates

Mike

Here are the five

The one unresolved issue I see is that all five together are too long, almost 25- 35% of a page in word. If we stay with a limit of one page per question of about 500 to a max of 600 words, having five questions is one too many. (Even 4 gave me, in prior years, the impression of pushing it- 3 were optimum as people will answer more thoughtful.

On Jul 27, 2015, at 8:33 AM, Michael Horne <hornems1@verizon.net> wrote:

Tracy and I have been working possible questions to pose to candidates for Town Council in the event there is a contested election. We are now at the point at which we feel it would be useful to have the Board review the draft. However, to avoid any possible appearance of favoritism, we want to make sure that all the candidates receive the questions at the same time so that no candidate has more time to prepare responses than other candidates.

One or more Board members may be running or at least still thinking about running, and we want to make sure that any such Board member is not given a head start on answering the questions. Thus, we are asking that each of you send me an email stating (if in fact it is the case) that you have not filed as a candidate and you have no intention of filing as a candidate for this year's election.

We will circulate the draft only to those Board members from whom we receive such an email.

Mike

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From: [Michael Horne](#)
To: [Tracy Mulligan](#)
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 2:23:23 PM
Subject: Questions for candidates

Hi Tracy,

Three Board members (John Himmelberg, Marty and Jerry Hardiman have not responded to my email which said only Board members who assured us they weren't running would see the draft questions. So for now those three plus Jerry Morris. If any of the three later give us the disclaimer we can copy them at that time.

Mike

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Notes from Tracy Mulligan on July 21, 2017

The Candidates Newsletter is assembled and formatted into a single word document, and is sent to John Barrett at the UPS Store in Ocean View. John formats it and sends it back to the BBLA contact for final review and OK. We alert John in advance as it typically takes one to close to two weeks to get it out.

Also sent is the tax list from the Town of Bethany Beach that shows all citizens of the town. The town supplies it for a reasonable fee (\$50 in the past). It is an electronic list

Follow up with Town

When the BBLA candidates' newsletter has been mailed by postal mail, I have sent it as an e-mail attachment to the Town, asking it be forwarded to all current Council members as a courtesy. This also means it is public information. One year the Town posted the information on the Town website. See below.

[//www.townofbethanybeach.com/list.aspx?MID=62](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com/list.aspx?MID=62)