

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
June 6, 2022

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:00 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Jackie Keith	Pilot's Point
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Marie Palma	West Beach
Salvatore Campailla	Middle Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point
Eric Peterson	Pointina Beach Association
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Cindy Beaulieu	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Bill Brownstein	Grove Beach Terrace Association

The business meeting began at 7:00 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Moynihan, and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith was absent. Pat stated that all association dues are now due. They are the same as last year. Please mail in your dues to Westbrook Council of Beach Associations c/o Steve Smith, 24 Young Road, Westbrook, CT 06498. As of June 1, 2022, there was \$1,243.75 in the checking account and \$6,399.19 in the savings account. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The May 2022 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane wrote an article about the WCOB that will be published in the summer edition of the Westbrook Events magazine.

President's Report: Pat reminded everyone of the new email address (westbrookcob@yahoo.com) created for the WCOB. He also reminded everyone to email the WCOB their updated Delegate and Alternate Contacts for their Associations for the 2022 Season. Delegate and Alternate Contacts are responsible for keeping their associations up to date with communications from the WCOB. Pat stated he also needs a day-to-day contact that can answer questions that may come up specific to each association.

Pat read a letter addressed to the Town Planner, Peter Gillespie regarding the Resiliency Committee that is being formed, indicating the WCOB support and interest. Westbrook will partner with the Towns of

Clinton and Old Saybrook. They have applied for \$150,000 grant to help with the shoreline resilience plan.

Pat also stated that the Town of Westbrook is working with Middle Beach to fix two rock jetties. It is taking a bit longer as permits are now required by the State of CT and for this reason, there is a delay.

Alleviating Hunger:

Tony Cozza was absent. Pat stated that the Stuff a Cruiser Food Drive is scheduled for July 9th at the Town Green from 9am – 1pm. Volunteers are very much needed for a one to two hour shift the day of the event. Posters are now available. Volunteers are needed to post these at local businesses. Please contact Tony Cozza if you can assist at tonycozza@comcast.net.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) – Andy Schatz and Tony Cozza were absent. Pat stated that this group works very hard in order to help our young, local residents to achieve their goals in both improving their skills and preparing them to move forward in life and hopefully continue to serve our community. Specifically, this organization assists with internships, obtaining employment, literacy programs and working with corporations in town. Due to COVID, it has been very difficult to do some of this work.

Traffic – Eric Peterson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 6pm. In March, the committee wrote a letter to the State of CT DOT supporting a recommendation from the resident State Trooper, April Moran, to lower the speed limit from 40 to 35 mph on Rte. 1 from South Main Street to the Clinton town line. The Town has not yet heard back from the State. It is anticipated that it will be 3-6 months before the State makes a decision. As a follow up to last month's concerns, Eric reported the commission said the missing signs on Seaside Avenue were too expensive to replace. With reference to the security cameras being up and running by the fire station, Eric stated that these are operated by the state of CT and the commission does not have information as to their schedule. Mike Tosatti expressed concerns about speeding traffic at Grove Beach. He asked if speed bumps could be added on Riverview or have temporary speed limits posted on the existing speed limits sign lowering the permanent speed limit, just for the summer. Pat stated that speed bumps are a challenge as the fire and ambulance departments have stated in the past that it reduces their response time. Grove Beach will have representation at the next Traffic Board meeting. Mike also mentioned the increased use of golf carts. Pat mentioned that golf carts are not legal to drive on Westbrook roads. He mentioned contacting the constables regarding this issue.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni was absent. Mooring permit application forms are available at the town hall. 81 moorings have been spoken for, so far, out of 125. The program to sign up on line for moorings fell through. Andy may take on the moorings' project, if approved. If there are dangerous moorings in your areas, please contact Harry Platt, Harbor Master. Dredging is taking place at Pilot's Point June 6-10th. Discussion is taking place regarding a request for a second police boat to patrol the area north of Rte. 1 (north of the Singing Bridge). A request for \$40,000 was made and is being discussed. Pat stated there was a meeting regarding speeding jet skis at Chapman Beach, the area will be patrolled, starting this week.

At 7:45pm Pat introduced Guest Speaker, Peter Gillespie, Town Planner. Peter has been a practicing town planner for the past 35 years. He will support the Westbrook Town Center revitalization project and oversee the coastal resilience for the town. By partnering with Clinton and Old Saybrook on the resilience plan, he stated, it opens resources at the federal level that otherwise would not be accessible.

A grant application at the federal level has been made and thus far, they are getting positive encouragement. If we get the funding, we will start the planning process next year. It will take a year or more to get the planning process in place. Peter views the WCOB as an important partner in the process. The town is also pursuing a few grants for the revitalization of the center of town. A question was raised regarding sewers. Peter stated that several options are being explored and that there will be community conversations in the fall to discuss what the town has done and a review of what can be done. They are trying to get movement with the outlets and have had two meetings so far with the owners. A request was made to have a FEMA representative or someone at a Special Meeting to provide a general review of the FEMA guidelines in town, including the new LIMWA maps. There were concerns by members that the regulations do not make sense and property owners are being penalized for trying to beautify their homes. Pat will follow up on the possibility of scheduling a meeting with FEMA and town representatives. Peter ended his talk by welcoming calls from property owners who have any questions on these matters.

New business/old business: Pat thanked the Scholarship Committee for their work this year. He read a letter that was emailed to Westbrook High School announcing this year's \$500 scholarship winner. His name is Henry Anderson, and we will invite him to a future meeting for a presentation.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting: July 11, 2022 at 6:30PM in person at the Town Hall, downstairs in Conference Room A. Please note the change in time, as we will have a guest speaker, John Palermo, Emergency Management Director, and a guest from the American Red Cross.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson