

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
July 19, 2021

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:01 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Paul Beaulieu	Cedar Crest
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Maria Botelho	Coral Sands
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Andrew Calderoni	District of Chapman Beach
Sam Capaillia	West Beach
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach Association
Tony Fastaia	Pilot's Point
Bill & Carolyn Fish	Old Kelsey Point
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach
John & Bonnie Hall	Town of Westbrook
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Marie Palma	West Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Sam Panella	West Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association

The business meeting began at 7:01 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Moynihan, and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith was absent. Steve sent his report to Pat who reported that there is \$1,912.34 in the checking account and \$6,398.60 in the savings account.

Secretary's Report: The June 2021 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane Monahan reported that Westbrook High School Senior, Livian Brito, was selected as this year's Scholarship Recipient. She will be attending Albertus Magnus College, majoring in accounting. Mary Jane submitted a photo and an article to the Harbor News about our scholarship winner. She also reported on the WCOB article in the Westbrook Events magazine.

President's Report: Pat mentioned the new email address (westbrookcob@yahoo.com) created for the WCOB. All future communications will come from the above email address.

Traffic – Tony Fastaia stated that residents on Seaside Avenue have inquired about traffic bumps to slow the traffic down. There is concern from the Fire and Ambulance departments over the speed bumps. In the past, temporary speed bumps were suggested, but they leave marks in the road and have mysteriously disappeared. There was a lengthy discussion which took place regarding slowing down the traffic throughout town. Bellstone Avenue and Old Kelsey Point Road were mentioned. It was mentioned that the police department must be proactive about slowing the traffic and enforcing speed limits. It was stated that no one seems to observe traffic speed limits and that action must be taken. Tony also mentioned the need for a 25 MPH speed limit sign needed near 863 East Pond Meadow Road. That is still being reviewed by the Traffic Authority Committee. Pat stated that he invited Trooper Moran. She had a conflict this evening but plans on attending a future meeting. Tony will take all of the feedback to the Traffic Authority Committee.

It was mentioned that the town hired a new full time police officer. All shifts are covered and the town is looking into hiring a third full time officer. An ask was made of John Hall to look into bringing back the bicycle police. John mentioned that the town spent an extra \$10,000 on 4th of July to have adequate police presence across town. The police boat was out by the island this year. There were no issues reported.

Alleviating Hunger:

Tony Cozza thanked all the volunteers and everyone for their donations to the “Stuff a Cruiser – Food Drive” held on July 10th at the town center. We had another tremendous event. Over \$2000 dollars cash was raised and lots of food benefiting those in our community. Tony is working on getting a date for the next stuff a cruiser with clothes event for the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Affordable Housing – Pat mentioned the on-line survey available to all residents. It is posted on the WCOB website. Please take a few minutes to complete. Community input is an important part of the overall process of preparing the plan, and your input will help the working group in developing strategies policies and action steps.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) – Tony Cozza reported that they had a good meeting. The town is receiving \$1.7 million from the American Recovery Act. The Board of Selectmen will meet to decide what capital projects to spend it on over the next two years.

Harbor Management: The Westbrook Harbor Management Plan requires that all private moorings along the Westbrook shoreline be registered with the Town of Westbrook. Andy Calderoni stated that any unregistered or illegal moorings along the Westbrook shoreline will be pulled. Inspection of moorings at Middle Beach will take place on July 24th and 25th. The Harbor Management committee has evolved over the years and will strictly enforce state law. All unregistered moorings will be considered abandoned and removed from Westbrook waters. Spot check inspections will take place. The owners of illegal moorings will be fined and illegal moorings will be pulled. Fine is \$140 and pulling of mooring is \$100. These expenses will be the responsibility of the mooring owner. The owner of a mooring has to certify his mooring has been inspected. This is expected to be effective prior to year-end.

Animal Control – There has been a black bear sighting south of Route 1 by Dunkin Donuts near Seaside Avenue. Please be sure to cover your trash.

Resiliency Committee: Pat stated that the town of Westbrook will begin work on a Resilience Plan next year. Tidal rise, climate change and flooding are a reality. WCOB will ensure representation on the committee. He reminded everyone of guest speaker, Jessica Beach's presentation last month. Jessica is the Chief Resilience Officer of the City of St-Augustine. Her presentation is posted on the WCOB website. Because of the many resources shared, the town is months ahead of schedule.

New business/old business: Information sharing – Pat stated we continue gathering information regarding this program. We are sensitive to the information being shared, and it will be kept confidential. The goal is to share common operational data, ex. landscape costs, beach clean-up costs, etc., to benefit one another and improve the quality of life for all members of the associations.

Nominations / Upcoming Election of Officers: Nominations for President and Secretary are up this year. If you have any interest, please let Steve Masson, Nomination Committee Chairman know.

Mark your calendar for The Board of Selectmen Candidates Forum scheduled for October 4th. This is an important election year. As most of you know, Noel Bishop is retiring. Volunteers will be needed to put up posters.

Correspondence: We received thank you letters from Westbrook Social Services for the \$1500 donation and from the Westbrook Senior Center for \$1000 donation. Both were greatly appreciated. We also received a letter from Ethan Franco asking for sponsorship of his Eagle Scout project. He is looking to build two picnic tables for the Senior Center patio. A motion was made to donate \$400 towards the project. A second motion was made and all approved. Pat will inform Ethan.

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

Next meeting: August 16th at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson