

Westbrook Council of Beaches

Minutes of the Meeting of May 4, 2015

President Barbara Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees were as follows:

Diane Ammerman -	Grove Beach Improvement Assoc.
George Abraham -	Island View Beach Assoc.
Steve Smith	IVBA
Keith Rich	Pointina
Tom and Lucy Nobile	Pointina
Mary Jane Monahan	Coral Sands
Bob Garneau	Pilots Point
Tony Fastaia	Pilots Point
Joe Marino	IVBA
Michael Tosatti -	Grove Beach Terrace Assoc.
Tony Cozza	IVBA
Patty Hubbard	West Beach
Carrie & Steve Santos -	Old Kelsey Hill & Beach Assoc.
Carolyn Fish -	Old Kelsey Point Assoc.
Barbara Wolf	Cedar Crest

The Treasurer's Report provided by Steve Smith was approved by voice vote.

First Selectman Noel Bishop handed out a notice of tree work planned by Eversource for various streets in Westbrook. The referendum on the Town Budget will be held May 21st. Information from the Budget Hearing (which preceded the vote) will be available from the Finance Director's office, and will be published in the Harbor News the week following this COB meeting. COB will provide a link to the absentee ballot request form on its web site. First Selectman Bishop also handed out a summary of selected Town ordinances (which covered dogs, smoking, alcohol and security on Town properties).

Bill Fish of the Town's Energy Committee and Leslie Higgins of Aegis Solar provided an update on the Town's Solar Challenge program. There will be a solar power and energy savings workshop held in the Community Room of the Library at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 2. Attendees at this workshop will qualify to double the number of 5 free LED light bulbs that will be provided at the Bulb Swap on June 13th from 10 AM to 2 PM. A \$5,000 grant that the Town earned from the Clean Energy Fund for the

Town's conservation activities will be used to purchase 2,000 LEDs and Eversource (CL&P) will provide another 2,000 matching ones free. Residents who turn in incandescent bulbs will get free LEDs. Installing ten LEDs will save the average resident \$100 in electricity costs annually. Treasurer Steve Smith, who installed a solar photovoltaic system on his house in April, said he was pleased with the quality of work and output generated in the first month.

Keith Rich presented an update for the Harbor Commission- Dredging will commence 5/15 at Pilot's Point, to open a channel to the fuel docks, and will last for a week. Mooring Permits- They would like to have the form available by June 1st, to be posted on COB and Town's websites, Those applying (without cost) will get a mooring sticker to put on mooring balls.

Inshore mooring is defined as in water less than six feet at mean high water. Over six feet of depth is considered an offshore mooring. Harbor Commission will provide guidelines on moorings, and the pyramidal type is preferred. Mushroom anchors may be used for those offshore, pyramid anchors for inshore moorings, since safer for bathers.

Inner moorings- there is no inspection date mandated as yet, and will not be likely near term during the first phase. He noted it was preferable to have outside inspectors (a certified contractor) instead of the owner do the inspection. Keith suggested that a summary of the number of moorings installed at each Association provided to the COB President to forward to the Harbormaster.

He also suggested that those with boats to be the liaisons within each beach association. As for "dead" moorings, he suggested removal by each association. Keith also suggested North Cove Yacht Club for purchasing mooring tackle, where it is less expensive than at West Marine and they provide good advice/installation.

A question was raised from the floor: What about moorings placed by someone not in an Association? Keith said they should have a permit, but that anyone can notify the Harbormaster (through Keith if they wish), to have the mooring inspected and removed if illegal. First Selectman Bishop suggested the placement of an article in the Harbor News, or posting notices similar to Shellfish notices.

Tony Fastaia, the Treasurer of Pilot's Point Association, suggested sharing information on insurance coverage and costs among Associations, such as that regarding a surety bond for a Treasurer, liability coverage and Directors & Officers liability policies. He offered to leave his name and phone number for others to copy

and contact him. It was noted that their President (Bob Harris) is an expert on flood insurance.

Barbara mentioned that she posted a link to a CT Mirror article on the COB website providing information on how flood insurance rates will be increasing as a result of recent legislation.

Barbara noted that under the Bylaws, she has the ability to appoint a Nominating Committee, and will call members via phone for such a position. The VP slot open, and any person who takes on that role will not automatically become President if they do not desire to be nominated for such.

Barbara provided some updates on other topics – The Illicit discharge ordinance is on hold. The Route One Corridor Study draft plan will be out soon. Town will begin a comprehensive update of zoning regulations. There is a Blight Committee meeting tonight, and a draft report will go to the Board of Selectmen, and then will be available for review by residents. Ann Mazur from Middle Beach is on the Blight committee.

She provided an update on the “Tax project” –to find the total amount of tax on properties within all Associations, which information used to be collected by the COB. An address list of properties within the COB was sent to Pam Fogarty, Tax Assessor and she will provide the total after compilation.

The dispute over the Vista housing development at corner of Chapman Beach Road and Old Post Road was settled. The only opposition at the public hearing was by nearby Chapman Beach residents.

Barbara suggested that if an association has an upcoming hearing on a development that they oppose, that they bring the issue to the Council, and as appropriate, the COB would try to get people from other associations to speak at a related hearing.

Carolyn Fish made an announcement about the Westbrook Garden Club’s May Sale on May 9th, where annuals, member plants and geraniums will be available, along with handmade craft items. Net proceeds are going toward Town beautification, such as the new white planters being placed around Town.

Barbara announced the Candidate Forum would be held at the October COB meeting, and that questions for the candidates were welcome. Two meetings are to be held in August. Members should contact her to suggest topics for future meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed, and President Wolf announced that the meeting was over.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Fish
Acting Secretary