

Minutes - Westbrook Council of Beaches Meeting of June 1, 2015

President Barbara Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM after distributing the Treasurer's report and copies of the minutes from the May 2015 and August 25, 2014 meetings.

Attendees:	Association:
Jan Frederiksen	Little Stannard Beach
Bob Garneau	Pilot's Point
Carolyn Fish	Old Kelsey Point
Patti Pessoni	Old Salt Works Road
Patty Hubbard	West Beach
Tom & Lucy Nobile	Pointina Beach
Dave Ammerman	Grove Beach Improvement District
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach
Dave Hosmer	Coral Sands
Janice Shaw	Coral Sands
Noel Bishop	First Selectman
George Abraham	Island View
Tony Cozza	Island View
Joe Marino	Island View
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace
Barbara Wolf	Cedar Crest

Barbara announced the passing of Steve Flynn, the representative from Pilot's Point Association, on the prior Saturday and had kind words for his generous past assistance. Bob Garneau, newly elected President of Pilot's Point, said Steve had coincidentally been elected a Director Emeritus and will be much missed by their Association's members. Gerry Dwyer or Tony Fastaia will likely know whether a donation in his name to the Westbrook Ambulance association or another entity will be appropriate. First Selectman Noel Bishop said Steve always came to the Town's budget hearings and asked great questions.

Minutes from the meetings of August 25, 2014 and May 4, 2015 were approved with modest corrections to the August minutes. The President announced that Sharon Woods had resigned as Secretary due to conflicts with her schedule, and that Bill Fish would be Acting Secretary only until a replacement was elected at the August 3 meeting.

Noel Bishop announced that paving had started on Seaside Avenue, that Southern Connecticut Gas had agreed to contribute \$168,000 to the Town's \$21,000 to repave the whole road, instead of just the side where the trench was dug for the gas line. A questioner from the floor asked how to get crosswalks painted, and Noel indicated they should go to the Traffic Commission to provide input on such painting.

Noel also mentioned that West Beach Association had a clean up, and that there was no charge for items they brought to the Town landfill. He encouraged residents to call his office if there was any problem with dogs violating ordinances, and he will send the animal control officer to attend to the issue. Noted cigarette butts on beaches need to keep clean. A Town ordinance stipulates no dogs on the Town beach between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. This does not cover private beaches, but it was mentioned that some beach associations have relevant local ordinances or rules.

The First Selectman also announced that Trooper Rob Hart taking retirement from Westbrook as Resident Trooper after 18 years, and going back to the Troop. A new trooper had been assigned, who wants to be as involved as was Trooper Hart, and Noel would like him to attend the WCOB meeting in August to introduce himself. Also, that dredging of the main channel will be completed in the fall, and some attending added that the initial work was not done properly near the gas dock.

Ed Gales from Chapman Beach introduced himself as their newly elected representative and said he was happy to join the process. Barbara Wolf indicated that there was no representative from Stannard Beach attending and asked if anyone had contacts there. Carolyn Fish volunteered that she knew someone, and will assist in getting a representative from that association.

Steve S 's Treasurer's report was approved by voice vote.

Barbara made some announcements: The Bylaws stipulate that two officers are elected each year. The offices of President and Secretary are up for election this year, The Vice President's slot is vacant. The election is scheduled for our first August meeting. She has appointed a Nominating Committee, consisting of Tom Nobile, Patty Hubbard and Carolyn Fish. They were asked to come up with candidates for the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Barbara said that she is willing to serve one more term unless there are others who wish to serve as President. Serving as the VP does not mean an automatic move into the presidency, but that person will be expected to support the President.

Traffic Committee- Tony Fastaia is the representative. Since he was out of Town, Barbara, relayed his information to the group. The PAT Advisory Board has installed a full stop at Old Clinton Road at the Railroad Crossing. The WCOB Candidate Forum will be held at the Monday October 5 meeting in the multi-purpose room of Mulvey, with the Valley Shore TV station to record it. Volunteers interested in training to operate the camera and other equipment are encouraged to apply to the local access station, whose studio is in Westbrook.

Keith Rich provided an update on Harbor Commission. Mooring ball stickers have been ordered, and will be provided to those who submit mooring applications. The permit form will be posted on the WCOB web site, and applicants can fill it out and e-mail to the Town Clerk or fill out a paper form at the Town Hall. He provided copies of the old application form for those attending who have moorings. Harbormaster Bruce Lawrence's e-mail address was also passed around, which is

harbormaster@westbrookct.us. Mooring inspections have put on the back burner, and Assistant Harbormaster Dave Russell was not able to make the meeting.

Joe Marino of the Scholarship Committee reported that High School guidance personnel have identified a senior who has improved the most during their four years, and they will inform her of the award at the June 10<sup>th</sup> awards presentation at the H.S. Joe has sent a letter to be provided to the recipient inviting her to the WCOB meetings of either July 6 or August 3. Noel mentioned that those providing the scholarship are invited to the H.S., but Joe prefers we present the check at the WCOB meeting instead. There was a question from the floor whether our criteria for the scholarship was still appropriate. Joe replied that the guidance department strongly supports keeping the criteria, which was approved by the WCOB at a meeting in 2014, since most of the other scholarships go to a small group of high achievers.

Barbara mentioned she has the capability to monitor those accessing our web site, and that there were 585 hits on the site last month, 47 of which originated from China.

Barbara proposed to invite State Representative Carney and State Senator Linares to speak at one of next WCOB meetings, to which there was general agreement. She also mentioned that the Draft Route 1 Corridor Plan for Clinton, Old Saybrook and Westbrook was due to be finalized soon by the River Council of Governments (River COG). Barbara has already provided a link to the River COG site on the WCOB web site. The Concept Plan Poster for Westbrook includes a proposed boardwalk from Route 1 to the Town Beach, skirting the new Pilot's Point condo development; West Beach and Coral Sands might be impacted.

She mentioned that also included in the concept design are changes proposed for around Town Hall and the Town Green. One member mentioned that the final Westbrook public hearing on the plan was held in March. A questioner from the floor asked where the funding would come from. Noel Bishop suggested having a River COG representative and their consultant come to a WCOB meeting, and offered to coordinate such. Barbara suggested that the WCOB provide input prior to any plan finalization, and wondered how a boardwalk could go through wetlands. Attendees assured her that such was not only allowed, but feasible. Barbara reiterated her suggestion that when one beach association is potentially impacted by zoning or other changes, that the other associations provide support for their views.

Noel Bishop mentioned that a new Blight Committee had been established last fall, and was meeting concurrently tonight in the Town Hall. Its draft proposal is being finished, will next go to the Board of Selectmen, and the next steps would be to hold public hearings, a Town Meeting, and potentially a referendum. The Town Attorney has reviewed their proposal. Ann Mazur from Middle Beach is on the Blight Committee, which is why she has not attended the last few WCOB meetings.

An attendee brought up the prevalence of jellyfish so early in the season, and it was mentioned that these were a colder water species. Someone suggested searching Google

for orange to brown jelly fish, which apparently like colder water, do have stinging tentacles, but typically are gone by warmer weather when more swimmers are in the water.

Bill Fish reminded folks that the Solar Challenge workshop would be held in the Community Room of the Library the next night, June 2 at 7:00 PM. Those attending would hear presentations on adding solar electric or solar hot water panels to their buildings, as well as information on the Home Energy Solutions program of Energize Connecticut, which involves a blower test for air leaks, caulking, pipe insulation, and rebates on insulation, boilers, and appliances.

Attendees at the workshop would be eligible for twice the number of five free LED light bulbs being provided to all residents and businesses at the Bulb Swap on the Town Green on June 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM, the last half concurrent with the Family Day on the Green activities.

A motion to adjourn, was made, seconded and passed at 7:56 PM, and the President adjourned the meeting.

Respectively submitted,  
Bill Fish  
Acting Secretary