

Westbrook Council of Beach Association  
Minutes  
July 7, 2025

The Westbrook Council of Beach Association (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:02 pm.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Cindy Howard	Vice President
AnnMarie Ferreira	Treasurer
Virginia Wynne	Recording Secretary
MaryJane Monahan	Special Projects Secretary
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
Jackie Keith	Pilot's Point
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace
Jack Zamar	West Beach
Ian Polun	Coral Sands Beach
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Ron Botelho	Coral Sands Beach
Cindy Nero	Coral Sands
Frank Nero	Coral Sands
Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach
Lucy Nobile	Pointina Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Tony Cozza	Island View
Cheryl Cook	Old Kelsey Point
Louisa Ketron	Middle Beach
Dave Russell	West Beach

A motion was made to dispense with the normal order of business in order to welcome and accommodate tonight's guests: Maddie Valiente, Scholarship Recipient and John Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman – Approved.

A moment of silence was taken for the Texas Flood Victims.

Maddie Valiente was presented with a check from the Council of Beaches and told the group a bit about herself and her plans to study nursing at the University of Hartford.

First Selectman John Hall III spoke to the group about what lies ahead for the Town of Westbrook:

Outlet Mall Redevelopment – moving forward and the DEP filing is “complete and paid” which will now move it to the “consideration” phase.

Downtown Septic Proposal – the original proposal included 51 properties in the center of town which would have cost between \$13-15M requiring the raising of taxes and bonding, therefore another option is being looked at which would include only the worst area (located at Westbrook Place) at a cost of approximately \$2M which will be brought before the public.

Community Center – three options have been presented with costs between \$15-28M which will require public hearings and a referendum for the bonding/tax issues.

School Roofs –after consultation with professionals and in order to avoid bonding that would be required to do all roofs at the same time, instead they will be done in order of “as needed” and paid for under the capital fund.

Transfer Station Scale/Building – within the next few weeks residential and commercial users of the transfer station will be weighed going in/out of the facility and will pay by the pound for demolition and masonry waste in order to cut down on abuse primarily by contractors some of which are suspected to be from out of town, who are passing the costs onto the town for disposal. The approximate cost will be around \$ .10/lb or thereabouts. It is not expected that resident homeowners will have to pay for things such as grass clippings and the like.

School/Town Landscaping (as part of the approved budget). Landscaping will be performed by the Town instead of by a third party which will save money over the long term. Two full time employees will be hired as part of Parks/Public Works Departments to complete this work.

Q&A to John Hall:

Use of Golf Carts – the use of golf carts on public roads is illegal in Connecticut.

Police Presence - Two additional police officers have been hired to increase patrol/presence.

#### Status of Sidewalk Projects –

1. Belstone to Riverview – will start in the Fall
2. Chapman to Saybrook line – still in designing phase (over Cold Spring Brook Bridge) which need approvals.
3. Goodspeed to Old Forge – starting engineering. \$1.9M grant received.
4. Old sidewalks currently being fixed on West Pond Road and Economy Drive

Singing Bridge – repairs expected after Labor Day **2026** which include re-decking, paint, rust removal. Road or lane closures may be required.

Bridge at 153 over 95 - which includes bridge changes and moving ramps in talks with DOT

Westbrook Ambulance - currently in litigation as has been reported publicly in the press. Currently in the process of eviction and working with lawyers to recoup the mortgage payoff dollars paid by the Town. Expected to be some building repairs, staffing and vehicle acquisition if the Town ends up with the public health license which is TBD as this plays out. This issue is expected to cost the Town approximately \$1M to rectify this issue. The leadership at WAA has not been cooperative in working with the Town to find a solution. This is a priority for the Town leadership. The WAA is, however, still responding to emergency calls and the issue is not with the EMTs or drivers – they continue to be wonderful.

Coastal Resiliency Implementation Committee – This newly appointed Committee will start meeting this week to formulate an implementation plan based on the previously released Coastal Resiliency Plan. There are some funds available through the Port Authority/Small Harbors in the amount of \$275k and additional grants will be sought.

Displaced Persons Issue – there have been some issues with homeless persons residing in ball fields and town parks. Police will be removing the folks from the little league fields so that the games can continue. Social services are being offered and solutions sought.

First Selectman John Hall III was thanked for his time and presence at this meeting.

At 7:52, normal business was resumed by motion/seconded/approved.

#### **Minutes Approved**

Motion made, seconded, to approve the Minutes of the June 2, 2025 meeting that have been posted on-line with one typographical correction. Passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

AnnMarie Ferreira reported that there is \$3,009.63 in the checking account and \$6,401.17 in the savings account. Motion made, seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Passed unanimously.

### **Committees:**

#### Harbor Commission (Andy Calderone)

As previously mentioned, Andy reported that the new on-line mooring registration system is moving along. The Harbor Master (Charlie McSorley) is requiring that a picture of gear be included as part of the inspection process which is considered a better alternative than having to hire an outside company to perform the inspection with a corresponding additional cost. Once all paperwork is received, turn around time is swift.

#### Hunger/Food Drive/YMCA Garden (Pat Marcarelli and Michael Tosatti)

The Food Drive is 7/12/25 from 9-1 on the Town Green. **Still looking for volunteers to collect money and/or food from each Association. A new Chairman for this initiative is also sought to coordinate the event going forward.**

YMCA Community Garden - Michael Tosatti again reported that 35 beds of gardens have been planted and that last year generated about 2500 lb of produce for the Westbrook Food Pantry and is on track to increase output in 2025. The WCOB is a co-sponsor for this project and **volunteers still are needed for harvesting and other tasks. If you want to help with this project, contact Michael Tosatti.**

### **Good and Welfare**

Nothing to report this month

### **Old Business**

Pat would like to acknowledge and thank Joe Marino and Lisa Anderson for their work on the scholarship program.

Next Meeting – Monday August 4, 2025 at 7 pm at Westbrook Town Hall, Conference Room A Downstairs.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn the meeting. So approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Wynne, Recording Secretary