

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations

Minutes

September 9, 2024

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

Before getting to the agenda items, President Marcarelli asked for a moment of silence for our neighbors, friends and local residents regarding the tragic boating accident that happened over the Labor Day holiday weekend in Old Saybrook. Our prayers go out to the families of the lives lost and those who were injured. This has struck a deep cord in our Westbrook community for all who knew those involved. Moment of silence observed.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Cindy Howard	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Ann Cole	Recording Secretary
Paul Beaulieu	Cedar Crest Beach
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
AnnMarie Ferreira	Middle Beach
Jackie Keith	Pilots Point
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
MaryJane Monahan	Coral Sands Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace
Virginia Wynne	Middle Beach
Jack Zmary	West Beach
Mark Zimnoski	Pointina Beach

Pat thanked everyone for being here.

Minutes Approved

Motion made, seconded, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024 that have been posted on-line. Unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Smith reported there is \$2,234.80 in the checking account and \$6,400.63 in the savings account as of September 1, 2024 for a total of \$8,635.43. Motion made, seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Unanimously passed.

President's/Officer's Report

The officers had nothing new to report to the Council, but Pat will discuss some issues further on in the meeting.

Harbor Commission: Andy Calderone stated there were no complaints reported. The new signs are up with the correct/updated telephone numbers. There are 55 registered moorings and there is more of an ease of getting and filling out mooring applications.

Alleviating Hunger/Food Drive-Christmas Tree Lighting: Tony Cozza was not able to attend this meeting, so Pat discussed the following: The Christmas Tree Lighting event will take place on December 8th from 3:00-6:00PM. At 4:00 there will be a short parade. The Council of Beach Associations are the honorees this year to host and light the Christmas Tree and we strongly encourage our membership associations to have as many of their neighbors and families involved. The group discussed a possible float to have in the parade and Andy stated he talked to Ron Botelho about having a boat for a float where kids could sit and ride in. At this point, Pat proclaimed Andy the Chairman of the Parade Float Committee! The parade will start at the fire station and encircle the green. High School students will man the food drive collection box which will then be brought to St. Mark's Church. Pat also said the company that decorated the tree, the owner has retired, so we'll have to ask the town for the use of their bucket truck. We will pay them if need be.

Coastal Resiliency: Ron was not in attendance so Pat reported on the issues. He said the consultant company hired (Collier Engineering) is still working on the report so the final draft has been delayed. The group discussed the ineptness of this company and how it handled this project. Andy stated that, in his opinion, they are not close to a final draft and at their last meeting, a motion was made not to pay any further invoices from this company. It's important to note that the town's taxpayers did not pay for this consultant, the money came from the state, but the town is very disappointed as are the volunteers who gave their time and energy. Pat will investigate the situation further and report back any new findings.

Also, Pat said this is our final COB meeting of the year because the resiliency committee asked to use our meeting room for their October meeting. Come to find out, their meeting is now not happening but we will still keep this as our last meeting. The resiliency committee will have to do a zoom meeting when they are ready.

Hazardous Mitigation: It was noted the final draft of this report has been presented to the town 2 weeks ago and will be coming out very soon. This report has to be done every 5 years and brief discussion was had on some of the happenings of the last 5 years.

Dunkin Donuts Building - Krauser's redo: Pat had a copy of Krauser's application that was submitted to the town if anyone wanted to view it. The group discussed the following:

- the usage of the property (as it is residential and historical);
- the townspeople's involvement;
- zonings lack of transparency with minutes and agenda items;
- basic oversights - so much not being done correctly and what is falling through the cracks;
- permit approval mistake at town hall and accountability.

Old Business -

Outlet Consultant - Motion: The motion that was passed at last month's meeting to write a letter to the town asking for an independent consultant to be hired by the Town of Westbrook, at the cost to the developer, to ensure guidance of the Westbrook Outlet Project was a success. The town put it out to bid and hired a firm. Fast action was taken and Pat thanked the Council of Beaches for a successful idea.

Community Center Survey: Pat sent out a survey to all the COB members on the proposed community center to be built in Westbrook. He urged everyone to carefully read and take the survey and to consider the pros and cons this could have to our townspeople and taxpayers.

Banking Motion: Last month we brought forward and approved a motion for our treasurer to take \$5,000.00 from our regular checking account and purchase a CD with a higher rate of interest. Steve went to the bank and inquired to do this. Unfortunately the paperwork and red tape may not be worthwhile (old banking papers and documents would have to be retrieved, application to the IRS would have to be done, etc.) Discussion ensued on possibly looking into becoming a 501c3 entity and waiting to see where the CD and savings rates are in the spring. MOTION made to table the transfer of \$5,000.00 to a CD, seconded, unanimously approved.

Election of Officers: According to our by-laws, the position of Vice President, and the position of Treasurer are officially up for re-election this year.

Cindy Howard has agreed to stay on as our Vice President for another term. Motion made, seconded to approve Cindy Howard as our Vice President. Unanimous.

Steve Smith has decided not to run for the position of Treasurer for this coming term. Steve has served this council for many years, and with a round of applause, all thanked Steve for a job well done. At this time, Pat turned the floor over to Steve Mason, our nominating committee chairman. Mr. Mason stated that AnnMarie Ferreira has volunteered her services to be the next Treasurer of the COB. Motion was made to approve AnnMarie as the new Treasurer, seconded, unanimously approved.

Pat, Steve and Ann Marie will meet to go over the details of the position and Steve will stay on until next spring for an easy transition.

Good and Welfare/New Business: Trolley Event - Pat mentioned he and town planner Peter Gillespie discussed the idea of a trolley event to tour our 17 beach associations. This would enable people to get to know more about, and where all of our beach associations are. This would be on a weekday morning with the trolley to meet at town hall. A representative from each beach association would be on board to do the tour of each beach and show the landscape of their neighborhoods. Clinton has a trolley that runs in their town and Peter will get in touch with Clinton to see if they can donate the trolley for this event. If not, we will see what the cost would be to pay for a trolley for the day. Everyone agreed this is a great idea and Motion was made to pay, if need be, for a trolley. This was seconded, unanimously passed.

Pat will try to move this forward within the next month.

Andy told the group of the beach merchandise that sells quite well in his beach association, and the money raised by selling items such as tee shirts, sweatshirts, etc.

His association uses a small company called LogoThread. If anyone is interested in doing this in their beach association, they could contact him and he will fill them in on the specifics.

Town Green Xmas Tree Lighting: Pat once again wanted to highlight the December 8th event. with the parade starting at 4:00PM (probably lasting 20 minutes), the food trucks, great atmosphere and great event. He urged everyone to attend and participate.

Save-the-Sound Event: MaryJane Monahan mentioned that this coming Sunday, September 15th from 9:00-11:00AM is International Beach Clean-Up Day, sponsored by Save-the-Sound. This will be for the town beaches and you can register on-line for this worthwhile event.

Adjournment: Pat thanked everyone for the great year it has been, with many topics addressed and finalized. He is very grateful for everyone's support and looks forward to next year. If anyone ever has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact him.

Cindy thanked Pat for his service and all that he does as President of the COB.

Next Meeting: The next COB meeting will be a Zoom Meeting on May 7th, 2025.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. So approved. The meeting ended at 8:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Cole, Recording Secretary