

Westbrook Council of Beach Association  
Minutes  
August 4, 2025

The Westbrook Council of Beach Association (WCOB) meeting was called to order by Vice President Cindy Howard (in Pat Marcarelli's absence) at 7:00 pm.

Roll call was taken with the following in attendance:

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Cindy Howard      | Vice President             |
| AnnMarie Ferreira | Treasurer                  |
| Virginia Wynne    | Recording Secretary        |
| MaryJane Monahan  | Special Projects Secretary |
| Andy Calderoni    | Chapman Beach              |
| Michael Tosatti   | Grove Beach Terrace        |
| Jack Zamarly      | West Beach                 |
| Ian Polun         | Coral Sands Beach          |
| Gary Bazzano      | Grove Beach Point          |
| Paula Mezzanote   | Middle Beach               |
| Ann Mazur         | Middle Beach               |
| Kevin Wynne       | Middle Beach               |

A motion was made to dispense with the normal order of business in order to welcome and accommodate tonight's guests: Aiden Otrin, Senior at WHS and his family as well as John Palermo from Emergency Management – Approved.

Aiden was given the floor and gave a wonderful and thorough presentation on Climate Change and Storm Forecasts including such topics as:

- Hurricane Information and Hazards
- Storm Surge Dangers
- Tornados
- Coastal Flood Risks
- Rip Currents
- NWS Alerts/Changes
- Federal Funding Cuts and Impacts of Same

Materials provided by Aiden and John were taken by association representatives for posting within the beach communities and on their social media. If anyone needs additional copies, please let Cindy or Pat know.

After the conclusion of the presentation, normal business was resumed by motion/seconded/approved.

### **Minutes Approved**

Motion made, seconded, to approve the Minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting that have been posted on-line. Passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

AnnMarie Ferreira reported that there is \$2,509.63 in the checking account and \$6,401.22 in the savings account. A \$500 expenditure was made in July to our scholarship recipient.

Motion made, seconded, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Passed unanimously.

### **Committees**

2025 Christmas Tree Lighting/Parade is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we are Sponsors. Ideas welcome including the possibility of a Float. Feel free to contact Cindy at 860-805-4677 if you would like to lead this fundraising event going forward.

July, 2025 Hunger/Food Drive – We need more volunteers and a new Committee Chair to run the Food Drive going forward. Tony Cozza has led this initiative for 10 years and it's time for someone else to step in. we collected \$15,000 and 750 lbs of food with additional donations still coming. There was discussion by MaryJane Monahan that the event was not published in the calendar of events until after it was over.

YMCA Garden Michael Tosatti reported that to date 1000 lb of produce has been delivered to the Westbrook Food Pantry. 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. Thank you to those that have assisted, especially on Monday night's harvests.

Zoning Board Report Jack Zamarly reported that the following proposals were addressed:

Scoops and Slices – Two proposals pending regarding (1) outdoor seating and (2) closing time changes.

Property next to the Mexican restaurant across from Fire House – (3) proposal for mixed use / retail

Viking Motel – (4) proposal for increased density. Proposed condos

### **New Business**

Stop Signs – Cindy Howard reported that it has come to the attention of the Town, and Pat has confirmed in the field, that some of the STOP signs in neighborhoods are at the wrong height. They should be 7' from the ground to the bottom of the sign and in some cases are as high as 9'. Discussion this evening resulted in the suggestion that a letter be written to the Town that the DPW take responsibility for bringing these signs into compliance. We shall await word from Pat on next steps.

### **Old Business**

Speed Bumps – Cindy Howard brought up the on-going issue of the need for speed bumps/management for at least, Chapman Beach, Grove Beach, West Beach and Middle Beach to control speed. The Town has delegated this issue to the COB in light of the fact that the Westbrook Traffic Commission no longer exists. Cindy read a letter received by Pat and John Hall from the Westbrook Fire Department written by Kimberly Bennett on behalf of the WFD as well as the Fire Commission Chairman who oppose speed bumps in beach communities for the following reasons: (1) hinderance of response times and (2) possible department vehicle damage. The COB disagrees with this assessment making note that the speed bumps suggested are low to the ground and temporary (during the summer months) and should not create any of the issues raised by the WFD/FCC.

Additional speed management tools were suggested such as:

1. Alternating manned/unmanned police cruisers at various locations;
2. Moveable gates/fencing on private roads (not allowable on public roads)
3. Traffic cameras that take a picture and tickets issued by mail to violators. These cameras were reported to have been installed in Washington, CT, Middletown, CT and soon in West Hartford, CT which can also create a revenue stream.

### **Elections**

President and Secretary are up for election this year and candidates are welcome.

### **Good and Welfare**

Nothing to report this month

Next Meeting – Monday September 8, 2025 at 7 pm at Westbrook Town Hall.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn the meeting. So approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Wynne, Recording Secretary