

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
July 10, 2023

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:03 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Cindy Howard	Vice President
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Paul Beaulieu	Cedar Crest Beach
Ron and Maria Botelho	Coral Sands Beach
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach
Jackie Keith	Pilot's Point Beach
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Bruce and Mary Jane Monahan	Coral Sands Beach
John Moriarty	Old Salt Works Beach
Tom and Lucy Nobile	Pointina Beach
Eric Peterson	Pointina Beach
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Jack Zmary	West Beach

The business meeting began at 7:03PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Cindy Howard, and Pauline Peterson, Secretary and Steve Smith, Treasurer.

Officer's report.

Cindy Howard reported that she will be attending Mary Polchaninoff's show "Shore Things" on the Valley Shore Community TV to talk about the WCOB. The show will be taped in August.

Pat stated that the minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting were posted on line. A motion was made to accept the minutes. Steve Smith reported on the treasurer's report. We have \$2,216.22 in the checking account and \$6,399.88 in the savings account as of July 10, 2023. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as reported. Steve mentioned that the collection of dues is going well. He received a note from Michelle Sharp from Westbrook Project Graduation which thanked the WCOB for their \$250 donation. She mentioned listing the WCOB on their list of sponsors.

Pat received a thank you note from our scholarship winner, Jonathan Brajczewski, thanking the WCOB for the \$500 scholarship award.

Harbor Committee:

Andy Calderoni reported that they have received 120 beach mooring applications, and put out 65. There are step by step instructions on line on how to complete the application. Go to the Harbor Management Department on the Westbrook Town website and click on Online Moorings Step by Step Procedures or go to the WCOB website. Many of the applications were not filled out properly because the credit card information was not entered incorrectly. As part of the application process, one must certify the mooring is in good shape, with proper weight, etc. You can only obtain a mooring sticker if you complete the application on line. One cannot go to town hall to pay and get a sticker. If you have any difficulty, please contact Andy.

Police Advisory & Traffic Boards: Eric Peterson reported. People are parking on Riverview Road – the board is exploring the possibility of putting a no parking sign on one side of the street. The board is also investigating putting one more speed sign on the east bound side of Old Mail Trail. It is under advisement again. The challenge is you can't put a sign on someone's driveway. There were two issues on Seaside Avenue where people have removed signs. The town wants to make sure the signs remain and are not removed.

Alleviating Hunger:

Tony Cozza reported that on July 8th from 9-1pm "Fill A Boat" with food and donations on the Westbrook Green was a great success. The new police Marine II Boat was on the Green. We collected 540 pounds of food, and \$7,442 donation. We had many volunteers attend. A shout out to Steve Mason from Stannard Beach. Their association raised \$4,073 and growing. This is one of the largest food drives. There was a great turnout and it was a very rewarding day for all. Many Westbrook students were there to help and obtain community service hours. The students were a big help. Thank you to all our volunteers and our donors. Thank you to our police officers and to Dave Russell and Evan Cusson for bringing the police boat on the Town Green.

WEIA – Tony Cozza reported on a new group in town called the Westbrook Merchants Association, a networking group for Westbrook businesses. The group's mission is to increase the local business involvement within the Town of Westbrook by providing resources and opportunities for businesses to thrive. Their vision is to become the voice that represents small businesses in Westbrook by bridging the gap of communication amongst other local committees and the town and to bring an increase in development and enhancement to our community and residences. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Highliner III Restaurant. All business members are welcome to attend. You do not need to be a merchant to get involved. These business owners will implement a recurring town-wide event in the fall called "First Wednesday".

New Business / Old Business:

There is a problem with people setting up tents on West Beach. There is an ordinance in place and the town is enforcing taking down any tents /camp sites. Public works will take the tents down. Machinery goes on to the beach at 5:30am in the morning to mitigate seaweed, etc. and nothing must interfere with their work. Please let your members know that nothing must be left over night on the public beaches.

"Blessing of Fleet" held on July 1 was a success but it was very foggy. Fr. Martin & Rev. Hicks were there. We are planning to do this again next year on the first Saturday of July.

Seaweed Mitigation – The Town of Westbrook has a two-year Certificate of Permission to mechanically remove seaweed for the public beaches only. The Town needs proper machinery to do the mitigation. Pat approached the Westbrook Foundation for funds for the Town to purchase machinery to do proper seaweed mitigation.

Pat introduced Ron Bothelo who represent WCOB on the Resiliency Committee. Ron stated that the Town of Westbrook is the recipient of a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s (NFWF) Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) to prepare a multi town Coastal Resiliency Plan in partnership with the neighboring Towns of Clinton, Old Saybrook and the Borough of Fenwick. The Plan will identify projects which address the risks and hazards to Town infrastructure and coastal properties (public and private) and that will increase community resilience.

He spoke to the audience about the work that has been done so far, mainly gathering of data. On August 19th, the consultant will hold a “pop up” event at the Town Beach to obtain community feedback from all areas of the community. They are looking to hear from all of the stakeholders regarding vulnerabilities to climate change and sea level rise. The purpose is to listen to residents voicing their opinions on any issues that are of concern. A new website was created “forshoresiliency.com” for residents to voice their thoughts and opinions. Mark your calendar and please plan to attend this event. This is a great opportunity for our residents to share their ideas and areas of concern and to show commitment in order for the Town of Westbrook to obtain additional grants.

Pat mentioned that the WCOB President & Secretary positions are up for election this year. We need new people. Please consider volunteering.

Next meeting: Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7 pm in person at the Town Hall, downstairs in Conference Room A.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Pauline Peterson
Secretary