

Westbrook Council of Beaches
Minutes
September 14, 2020

The Westbrook Council of Beaches (WCOB) Zoom meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:06 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Bill & Jane Fish	Old Kelsey Point Association
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach Association
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach Association
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Marie Botelho	Coral Sands
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach
Paul Beaulieu	Cedar Crest
Tony Fastaia	Pilot's Point Neighborhood
Salvatore Campailla	Middle Beach
Barbara Wolf	Cedar Crest

The business meeting began at 7:06 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Monahan, Treasurer, Steve Smith, and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith reported that as of August 14th, the savings account balance is \$6,398.07 and the checking account balance is \$2,014.24. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The August 17, 2020 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane Monahan reviewed the few minor changes to the By-laws. The changes were intended to modernize the language in the by-laws. The By-laws were voted on and unanimously approved by those in attendance. Mary Jane also talked about the International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the Westbrook Land Conservation Trust taking place on September 26th at West Beach and Coral Sands Beach. She encouraged all beach associations to participate at their respective beaches by downloading the free app Clean Swell. She also stated that Connecticut Magazine published an article in their August issue on the Health of Long Island Sound. Both items are posted on the COB website. For those of you who are away in the winter, you can register for a Notification Alert to stay informed about

important happenings in town. The link to register is available on the COB and Town of Westbrook website. In addition, she suggested that seasonal residents can place an index card or piece of paper on their front door stating “In case of emergency call” and list two phone numbers where you can be reached quickly.

President’s Report: President Marcarelli asked that, if you have not done so as of yet, please email him your 2020-21 Updated Contacts for your Association. Please include phone number and email address. Pat also mentioned that Golf Shirts with the new COB logo are available for purchase. If interested, please contact Pat directly. The COB has also procured new signage to be utilized at future events.

Pat asked everyone if there is interest in having a Zoom meeting during the winter (November-April), especially during town budget discussions. All in attendance supported the idea.

A reminder to all: If you have a concern or issue relating to an animal on the beach, please contact Harry Plaut, Animal Control Officer. If your concern is specific to moorings/boating, contact Harry Plaut, Harbormaster or Dave Russel, Assistant Harbormaster. If your concern is specific to your beach, please contact the President of your beach association, first. The president of the COB is happy to assist, but all other resources should be leveraged first.

Committee Reports:

Alleviating Hunger: Tony Cozza was not in attendance. Pat reminded everyone to mark their calendar for the “Stuff a Cruiser – Clothes Drive” to be held again this year at the Westbrook Outlet, on Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 11am to 4pm.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI): Tony Cozza was not in attendance. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 30.

Traffic: Tony Fastaia reported that the committee has not met due to Covid-19. There is nothing new to report.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni reported that he and Pat recently joined Harbor Master, Harry Plaut, on a trip where they pulled abandoned moorings. Ten to fifteen dangerous moorings have been removed so far this year, several were from Middle Beach. Unfortunately, Andy was injured by one of the moorings. The Harbor Management Commission will be reviewing the town ordinance to ensure rules and guidelines are established for safety and proper distance is set between moorings and the distance from shore. The focus of the Harbor Management Plan is safety and avoiding any kind of hazards for all residents. There were 88 registered moorings this year. Please be sure to put your name on your winter markings. Mike Tosatti stated that there are two abandoned moorings at Grove Beach Terrace to the left of the pier that need to be removed. Andy has agreed to contact Harry Plaut, Harbormaster. Their next meeting is November 5.

POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development Committee): Pauline Peterson reported that the committee has prepared an on-line survey as part of the process of updating Westbrook's 2011 Plan of Conservation and Development. The survey follows up from a community survey conducted in the spring of 2020. This survey builds on those results and asks residents to give feedback on different strategies which came out of the earlier survey and meetings. The survey will be open for responses through October 4th. The Plan Update Committee will incorporate the survey results into the first draft of the 2021 Plan of Conservation and Development which will be prepared this fall. **Please share the survey link with your Association Members and encourage them to participate in the survey. The survey link is posted on the COB website and the Town of Westbrook website.**

Candidates' Forum: Pat stated that the committee has been working very hard on this important project, meeting with Town Officials, Health and Administrative as well as with VSCTV, to visit every aspect of this event. We have looked at both on site and remote and found that collectively we could not overcome several obstacles. Unfortunately, due to issues beyond our control, (Covid-19) the Council of Beaches Forum scheduled for October 5th at Westbrook Town Hall is cancelled. Pat stated that it is with great disappointment that we had to make this decision. We have reached out to local print media to explore the possibility of carrying out the Forum via Newspaper. (As of this writing, we ran into space allocations, time constraints and copy deadlines. The Council decided that we could not do justice for both the public and the candidates). The forum is cancelled.

New Business: There was no new business.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next meeting: May 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson