

JUNE 2, 2014 WCOB MEETING

- **Associations represented:**
 - **District of Chapman Beach**
 - **Grove Beach Improvement Association**
 - **Grove Beach Terrace Association**
 - **Island View Association**
 - **Old Kelsey Point Association**
 - **Old Salt Works Road Beach Association**
 - **Pilot's Point Association**
 - **Pointina Beach Association**
 - **West Beach Association**
 - **(The association representation quorum was met.)**
- **The meeting was called to order.**
- **A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2014 WCOB meeting (with a correction adding two beach associations that had attended the meeting).**
- **Steve Smith presented the Treasurer's Report:**
 - **The closing checking account balance as of June 1, 2014 is \$1,670.68.**
 - **The closing statement savings balance as of June 1, 2014 is \$6,383.40.**
- **There was discussion regarding the proposed Harbor Management Plan and Ordinance (as recently revised):**
 - **The changes that were requested by the WCOB were made (summary passed out).**
 - **The Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2014 for approval and set for a Town meeting on 7/1/14.**
 - **An agreement was received to meet and talk about the changes.**
 - **A reporter from the "Harbor News" wants a statement as to how the WCOB feels about the Plan.**
 - **The main change in the Plan is that moorings no longer have to be removed for inspections. It was requested that the Town tells us what is looked for in the inspection. Keith Rich, Harbor Commission, responded that they are looking for a list of moorings, who the owners of the moorings are, and perhaps tagging them. He further stated that the inspection has to be by someone licensed or by the Harbor Master. Keith Rich stated that Scott Mitchell, Old Saybrook, said he would inspect for a nominal fee (approximately \$25.00). He said that a deep water mooring is in six or more feet of water; whereas, a shallow water mooring is exposed at low tide.**

“Chapman’s Guide on Navigation” has a good website for standards on moorings. Keith Rich further stated that:

- **He would like to see more marine patrol presence. This is a personal responsibility; also, our beach associations should be able to police our own moorings.**
- **He said that 1.5 times the depth of the water equals the size of the chain, the eye on top of the mushroom should be checked, and that a light chain should be inspected every year. We need a list of affordable inspectors.**
- **Your mooring should be registered every year and your name written on the mooring.**
- **Barbara Wolf, WCOB President, stated that the Westbrook mooring standards should be made public. She said that the WCOB made a great showing last month.**
- **Barbara Wolf discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan:**
 - **She said that Meg Parulis, Town Planner, needs more time. Meg Parulis will be at next month’s meeting. The Plan will be posted on the WCOB website in two weeks and e-mailed to us.**
 - **She said that one-half of beach associations reports on what each pays in taxes. She would like a list of all addresses in beach associations and will get information to the Assessor and posted on the website.**
- **Barbara Wolf discussed the candidates’ forum in October stating that, in the past, questions were given to the candidates in advance and questions were posed to the candidates at the end of the forum.**
- **Traffic Committee report:**
 - **Anthony Fastaia (Pilot’s Point Association, was introduced as the new WCOB representative to the Traffic Commission.**
- **There was no Pollution Committee report.**
- **Scholarship Committee report:**
 - **A request was made to Westbrook High School to identify the recipient. The identity of the recipient is kept a secret until after graduation. The recipient will attend the July WCOB meeting.**
 - **Joe Marino will take over the position of Scholarship Committee Chairman.**
- **Bill Fish introduced the guest speakers, Jeff and Mindy Gordon, founders of friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands:**

- They stated that their mission is to preserve the barrier island (maintain the islands and preserve the habitat). They organize educational events, seek grants, and make the community aware of the islands. They have teamed with the residents of Westbrook and have teamed with Steward McKinney Wildlife, and Audubon Connecticut.
- They meet monthly on the third Wednesday at McKinney Refuge on Old Clinton Road.
- Their recent accomplishments include:
 - Submission for restoration funds via The Department of Interior Coastal Resiliency Grant
 - Educational Wayside Sign installations at Middle and West Beach
 - Nature of Learning Program for all Westbrook 4th graders (USFW)
 - “Be A Good Egg” program community volunteer training (Audubon CT)
 - MOCC Training for new “island Keeper” patrols using USFW boat
- They explained that Salt Island is owned by Westbrook, Duck Island is federally owned, and Menunketesuck Island is owned by the State of Connecticut.
- They shared that the “Wayside Sign” explains species of birds, a map, the history of the islands, and general information for residents and visitors.
- The “Be a Good Egg” program meets on every other weekend at West Beach starting on June 7, 2014. They ask the children to take a pledge and preserve the beach, nesting birds, and bird nests.
- They said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and volunteers presented two classes to Westbrook fourth grade students. They will also be working with Waters Edge to coordinate an educational session.
- Duck Island and the upper end of Menunketesuck Island are closed during nesting season through October.
- They are working on a management plan for Salt Island with a grant submitted for a study and restoration.
- Barbara Wolf stated that the Illicit Discharge Ordinance is off the table right now. There is concern about folks who have sump pumps going into public drainage systems.
- Barbara Wolf will contact Meg Parulis, Town Planner, about what ordinances will be proposed.
- A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting.

