

Westbrook Council of Beaches
Minutes
August 17, 2020

The Westbrook Council of Beaches (WCOB) Zoom meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:00 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Marie Palma	West Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Eric Peterson	Pointina Beach
Linn Morgan	Pointina Beach
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach
Tony Fastai	Pilot's Point Neighborhood
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Don Carlson	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Bill Barrett	Little Stannard Beach

The business meeting began at 7:00 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 17th, the savings account balance is \$6,398.02 and the checking account balance is \$2,586.39. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The July 6, 2020 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section. Pauline reported that a thank you note was received from the Town of Westbrook Social Services organization for the \$1000 donation made earlier this summer and a second thank you note was received from St-Mark's Food Kitchen for all of the support for the July 11th Food Drive.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane Monahan reported on the By-laws committee. She stated that the committee has emailed the by-laws to Pat Marcarelli and highlighted the changes that were made to update the them. These will be reviewed and voted on at a future time.

President's Report: President Marcarelli asked that you email him your 2020 Updated Contacts for your Association. Please include phone number and email address. Pat also mentioned that Golf Shirts with

the new COB logo, designed by our own Mary Jane Monahan, are available for purchase. They are going fast! If interested, please contact Pat directly.

Pat reminded everyone that we are planning for the October 5th Candidate's Forum. Mark your calendar for this important event.

Committee Reports:

Alleviating Hunger: Tony Cozza thanked all of the COB volunteers and the community for making the July 11th Food Drive on the Westbrook Town Green, a huge success. A special thank you to Mike Rottblatt who donated 400 pounds of food. A record amount of food and donations were collected during the July 11th, Stuff a Police Cruiser Food Drive: 1766 pounds of non-perishable items and several thousand dollars in donations. Enough food was collected to fill 5 cruisers! Food and cash donations were delivered to St. Mark's Church, the site of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

Tony also asked everyone to mark your calendar for the "Stuff a Cruiser – Clothes Drive" to be held again this year at the Westbrook Outlet, on Saturday, December 5, 2020. The mall management will provide flyers.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI): Tony Cozza reported on ALICE which stands for - Asset **L**imited **I**ncome **C**onstrained **E**mployed. The goal of the organization is to eliminate ALICE. Go the COB website to learn more about this great organization. Volunteers are always needed.

Traffic: Tony Fastaia reported that the committee has not met due to Covid-19. He did state that the Committee received two letters from the State DOT that they approved and voted on. This was to put up two signs on the state road. He also mentioned that rumble strips would be installed from the intersection of Seaside and Boston Post Road to the Old Saybrook line. In the future, we would like to see rumble strips installed on portions of Seaside Ave.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni was not in attendance. President Marcarelli reported that he and Andy recently joined Harbor Master, Harry Plaut, on a trip where they pulled abandoned moorings. Pat stated this was a very eye-opening experience, and he appreciates all of the work that the Harbor Master is doing. Mike Tosatti stated that there are two abandoned moorings at Grove Beach Terrace to the left of the pier. Pat stated he would check in with the Harbor Master.

POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development Committee): Eric Peterson reported that the Town of Westbrook is updating the Plan of Conservation & Development. The committee has been meeting via zoom. The August 6th meeting was cancelled due to the storm and rescheduled for August 20th at 7pm. There are 6 booklets available for the public to review and comment. They contain important information about strategies and action steps being considered for the next 10 years. You may find the latest information on the Town website, [click here](#). Eric stated that he, Pat Marcarelli and Tony Cozza attended the August 10th Westbrook Planning Commission Meeting. The River COG (Regional Planning Organization for Lower Connecticut River Valley) is in the process of developing their Regional POCD and are looking for input from the residents of the Town of Westbrook. They facilitated a discussion around 5 specific questions. To review the questions, visit their website - RiverCOGRegionalPlan.org. You may also provide your input to these questions by reaching out to your local representatives, Bill Neale and Mary Farrell at Westbrookrpct@gmail.com. The River COG is meeting with all 17 municipalities to identify common goals and issues.

Nomination Committee: The offices of Vice President and Treasurer are up for re-election this year. The nominees are Mary Jane Monahan for the office of Vice President and Steve Smith for the office of Treasurer. There were no other nominees. It was voted unanimously to elect Mary Jane Monahan as Vice President and Steve Smith as Treasurer for the 2020 Season.

Candidates' Forum: Pat reminded everyone that we are planning for the October 5th Candidate's Forum. Mark your calendar for this important event. Mr. Phil Cocchiola from Oxford Academy has volunteered to be the Moderator. Please email Bill Fish at wmwfish@aol.com, with questions to ask the candidates prior to the event. The meeting will take place at the Teresa Mulvey Municipal Center and may also be viewed on TV Channel 19 or online at <http://www.vsctv.com>. We are in need of volunteers to help with the distribution of posters, as well as to assist the night of the event. Please reach out to Pat Marcarelli if you can assist.

New Business: Tony Fastaia suggested developing COB metrics for greater efficiencies and operations within the beach communities. He stated that the members of the COB may benefit by having access to a set of metrics for the operations of their respective associations. For example: Insurance....what kind, level of coverage, yearly cost. He mentioned that it would be extremely helpful to compare operations to the other members of the COB. This information could lead to more efficient and more effective management and utilization of resources. It was suggested that Tony draft a letter to all of the associations reviewing the process.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Next meeting: September 14th at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson