

Westbrook Council of Beaches  
Minutes  
August 12, 2019

The Westbrook Council of Beaches (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:04 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Janice Shaw	Coral Sands
Bob Brancato	West Beach Association
Salvatore Campailla	Middle Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Tony Cuzza	Island View Beach Association
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace
Caroline Wojcicki	Grove Beach Terrace
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Carolyn Fish	Old Kelsey Point
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach
Steven Smith	Island View Beach Association
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point

Prior to the beginning of the business meeting, President Marcarelli introduced Eagle Scout Joey Thomas from Boy Scout Troop 38 who explained his Eagle project. He built a conduit at the town green so electricity can be easily accessed during fairs and events. Joey was presented with a check in the amount of \$200. In addition, Eric Franco, another Eagle Scout from Troop 38 was presented with a check in the amount of \$200. Eric constructed a 40' walkway over a wet area on the trail to Salt Island Overlook, located next to the Westbrook Post Office. The Westbrook Garden Club is building a meadow garden in the area.

The business meeting began at 7:14 PM. Officers in attendance were President Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Monahan, Treasurer, Steve Smith, and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Pat Marcarelli introduced Steve Mason, Chairman of the Nominating Committee to discuss the election of new officers. Steve nominated Pat Marcarelli as President and Pauline Peterson as Secretary. There were no nominees from the floor. All attendees voted in favor. The new officers thanked the attendees for their support.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Smith reported that as of August 12, 2019, the checking account balance is \$2,585.69 and the savings account balance is \$6,395.50. Two checks in the amount of \$200 each for the Eagle Scout projects will be deducted from the current checking account balance. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

**Secretary's Report:** The July minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

**President's Report:** President Marcarelli had no updates.

**Vice President's Report:** Vice President, Mary Jane Monahan reported on the article written in the Harbor News about Ingrid Bauman, a recent Westbrook High School graduate, and this year's recipient of the WCOB \$500 scholarship.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Alleviating Hunger:** Tony Cozza stated that the "Stuff a Cruiser" event held on 7/6/19 on the Town Green was successful and will be repeated again around Thanksgiving this year. He also mentioned that the YMCA is looking for volunteers to pick vegetables in their garden. All produce is donated to the Westbrook Food Bank and Food Pantry. The Westbrook Congregational Church offers a community meal every Friday evening and volunteers are welcome. Tony also reported on a very successful weekly Lunch Program at the Daisy School. The program was financially sponsored by the Oxford Academy.

**Traffic:** Tony Fastaia had no updates.

**Harbor Management:** Andy Calderoni stated that this is the year of compliance. Harry Plaut, Harbor Master removed 15 moorings so far this year, which potentially could interfere with boating navigation. The Harbor Master is visiting every beach mooring to ensure all moorings are registered and compliant. Any moorings not in compliance are being tagged as violations.

#### **Old/Unfinished Business:**

**Candidates' Forum:** Mr. Phil Cocchiola from Oxford Academy has volunteered to be the Moderator of our Candidates' Forum to be held October 7<sup>th</sup>. The four candidates running for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectmen will be in attendance. Please email Bill Fish at [williamfish@aol.com](mailto:williamfish@aol.com), with questions to ask the candidates prior to the event. The room is booked at the Town Hall. Valley Shore TV will record the program. We are in need of volunteers to help with advertising, designing posters and distribution of posters. Please reach out to Pat Marcarelli if you can assist.

**New Business:** The Town of Westbrook is in the process of updating the **Town's 5 Year Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP Update)**. The purpose of the HMP Update is to update the hazards risk assessment, mitigation strategies and actions to reduce the loss of life and property resulting from natural and climate-related hazards. The Planning & Zoning Board held a public meeting on July 29th to gather input, comments and suggestions from residents. The 5 Year Plan will be presented to the State of Connecticut December 15, 2019.

A second public meeting will be held on September 16, 2019. A new Town of Westbrook flood zone map is available at the Town Hall. If you have any questions on how the new plan may impact your homeowner's flood insurance rates, plan to attend the second and final public meeting in September.

**Special Tax Districts – M-1 and M-20a.** The State of Connecticut has requested the names of the Presidents of all the Beach Associations and is reaching out directly to the associations who are in a

Special Tax District. Special Tax Districts need to complete a form, signed off by the Tax Collector. President Marcarelli suggested inviting Martin Heft, 860.418.6355, [Martin.Heft@ct.gov](mailto:Martin.Heft@ct.gov) from the State of CT to the next meeting to address “frequently asked questions” and to assist all impacted beach associations to be in compliance. We highly encourage the Treasurer of all beach associations to attend the next meeting.

A contact list of all the Presidents for each beach association was handed out to all attendees and will be posted on the WCOB website.

President Marcarelli stated that the Council will be working on **Capital Expenditures** between December and February. It is important for the Council to have your updated contact information. We would like to hear from you on what you would like to see moving forward. We have started to address some of the issues related to jetties, drainage at the beaches as well as flooding. Your input is appreciated.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Next meeting: September 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson