

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
September 13, 2021

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) 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
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach Association
Nancy Giannini	Pilot's Point
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Lynn Masson	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach Association
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Marie Palma	West Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Chuck Shimkus	Pilot's Point

The business meeting began at 7:00 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Moynihan, Steve Smith, Treasurer and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith reported that there is \$1,736.80 in the checking account and \$6,398.71 in the savings account. All association dues are in. The Treasurer's reported was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The August 2021 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane reported that the Harbor News has published the Scholarship article.

She also reminded everyone that the annual International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by Save the Sound will take place on Saturday morning, September 18th from 9-12 noon. She encouraged all of the associations to register for the cleanup at Savethesound.org under Westbrook West Beach. Download the app Ocean Swell to record your findings which will be tabulated to get a global picture. Plastic is the number one pollutant.

She also mentioned that a "Food & Diaper Drive" will take place Saturday, September 18th from 10am to 2pm, on the Westbrook Town Green. Cash donations are welcome. The Food Drive will benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries and Bare Necessities.

President's Report: This is our last meeting of the year. Pat reminded everyone of the new email address (westbrookcob@yahoo.com) created for the WCOB. He also reminded everyone to email the WCOB their updated Contacts for their Associations for the 2021 Season.

Pat stated that a resident reached out to him inquiring about the water quality of the Town Beach and whether it was safe to swim in the water on Labor Day Weekend. The individual mentioned seeing a poster on town health department letterhead stating that the bacterial level of the water was high. Upon further investigation, it was noticed that the poster was dated 9-12-2020. Pat is researching further with the Town of Westbrook. *(after this meeting, it was confirmed that this was indeed an old poster from last year and there were no issues this year.)*

Alleviating Hunger:

Tony Cozza reported that the next Stuff a Cruiser with Clothes Event will take place December 4th from 11am to 2pm at the Westbrook Outlets. Tony asked the WCOB to assist him in finding a volunteer to co-chair the next Stuff a Cruiser event. Nancy Giannini from Pilot's Point volunteered. High school students have also volunteered to assist the day of the event. Volunteers are still needed, at least one adult per hour. Please reach out to Tony if you can help.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) – Tony Cozza reported that the town is receiving \$1.7 million from the American Recovery Plan Act. A public hearing will be held on September 28, 2021 at 6PM to get the Town of Westbrook residents' input. Please inform your associations and plan to attend this important meeting. The Board of Selectmen will then meet and decide what capital projects to spend the funds on over the next two years. A WEAI round-table meeting will take place on October 7th. Leslie Carson, the Career/College Readiness Coordinator at Westbrook High School will provide an update.

Traffic – Tony Fastaia stated that he is retiring from the Traffic Commission and Eric Peterson is the candidate that has been nominated to represent the WCOB. Tony stated that Eric was well received and will be a great asset to the commission. Pat thanked Tony for all of his years of service.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni was absent. Nothing new to report.

New business/old business: Information sharing – Pat stated we continue gathering information regarding this program. This is a work in progress and thus far has been most helpful. Tony Fastaia will continue to gather the information. We need greater participation.

Pat also stated that the Town Budget meetings will begin in February. Department meetings begin in December. This is a good time to be thinking about potential projects.

Pat also mentioned that the State of CT DEEP is looking at marshlands and tidal lines.

LiMWA under FEMA was brought up by one of our members. Most of the audience had limited knowledge of this. LiMWA stands for Limit of Moderate Wave Action. According to the FEMA web site, the federal insurance and mitigation administration under FEMA has recently published Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that now include a line showing the Limit of Moderate Wave Action, or LiMWA, which is the inland limit of the area expected to receive 1.5-foot or greater breaking waves during the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event.

Candidates' Forum: Mark your calendar for The Board of Selectmen Candidates' Forum scheduled for October 4th at 7pm at the Oxford Academy, Stone Student Center, 1393 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT. Parking is limited, in person attendance is limited due to room capacity to approximately 60 people. Masks are required. The program will be televised live via Valley Shore Community TV. Links can be found on the Westbrook Council of Beach Associations website under "view poster." If you have a question to ask the candidates, please email Bill Fish at wmwfish@aol.com or submit your questions to westbrookcob@yahoo.com by September 21st. Volunteers are needed to put up posters in town. Please reach out to Pat to assist. Due to Covid, the event could not be held at town hall. We are grateful to Oxford Academy for letting us use their space.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting: October 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Candidates' Forum

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson