

Westbrook Council of Beaches  
Minutes  
May 3, 2021

The Westbrook Council of Beaches (WCOB) Zoom meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:01 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Tony Fastaia	Pilot's Point
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach Association
Bill & Carolyn Fish	Old Kelsey Point
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Marie Palma	West Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association

The business meeting began at 7:01 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Moynihan, Treasurer, Steve Smith, and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Smith reported that as of April 30, 2021, the checking account balance is \$1,222.34 and the savings account balance is \$6,398.50. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Over the past year the COB made charitable donations to the community of Westbrook close to \$3580.

**Secretary's Report:** The September 2020 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section. Pauline Peterson reported on several thank you notes received from Westbrook Social Services, the Senior Center and Youth and Family Services, and St-Mark's Food Pantry. In addition. Pauline thanked Vice President, Mary Jane Monahan for writing the WCOB article published in the Q-1 2021 Westbrook Events magazine. It is on page 20 and provides a great description of who we are and what we do.

**Vice President Report:** Nothing to report.

**President's Report:** President Marcarelli stated that the WCOB had a very successful year working closely with the town. Donna Castracone, the Finance Director has done a fine job. A huge thank you to the Westbrook Foundation who stepped up to fill the holes in the budget which helped keep the budget numbers down. The COB has been following and participating in virtually every Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meetings this past year especially during the Budget process. Both Boards have worked very hard and came up with a Budget that will reflect a **NO TAX INCREASE**, while making many improvements to our Town infrastructure and completing many projects that have been put on hold and comply with the new State Mandates.

I, therefore, strongly encourage you to please get out and vote in favor of this year's budget. There will be two questions on the Ballot and please vote yes for both. This is very positive for the Town as a whole. This is a paper, in person Ballot, at the Mulvey Center (Town Hall). All property owners are eligible to vote and Absentee Ballots are available from the Town Clerk's office. **Please go to Town Hall and VOTE YES on May 13<sup>th</sup> 12pm to 8pm.**

Pat stated the COB had several fund raisers, including the clothes drive, the food drive and the most recent campaign where we raised \$3500. Overall, as an organization, we contributed close to \$7000 worth of donations. Pat thanked all the volunteers and all of the members of the association for their time and generosity.

#### **Alleviating Hunger:**

Tony Cozza reminded everyone to please donate canned goods and/or nonperishable items to the Westbrook Food Pantry. There is a tremendous need for food during this time. Demand is up and supplies are low. He mentioned that last year, pre-pandemic the Food Pantry assisted 100 families and this year, there are 250 families in need. You may drop off your food items at St. Mark's. He also mentioned that the "Stuff a Cruiser – Food Drive" will be held again this year on July 10th from 9am to 1pm at the town center. Volunteers are needed for a one to two hour shift the day of the event. Please contact Tony if you can assist.

**Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI):** Tony Cozza reported that their last meeting was held in January. The Forum Business Leaders' meeting is scheduled for May 26 from 5-6pm. Leslie Carlson from the school is doing a great job along with the new Superintendent, Dr. Kristina Martineau. Representatives from the State were at the last meeting and Westbrook is doing a great job in guiding our young people choosing careers.

**Traffic:** Tony Fastaia reported that the state has been putting up pedestrian crossing signs throughout town. One was removed on Seaside Avenue and one advanced crossing sign was also removed. The signs will be replaced. This is state wide initiative. A traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Horse Neck Road and I-95. These are very expensive. The new light will be installed in the next two years. Trooper Barelli was promoted and transferred. The town of Westbrook is currently searching for his replacement and expect to have some in place by July 1.

**Harbor Management:** Andy Calderoni was not present. Pat mentioned moorings are coming in slowly. Go to the [Harbor Management website](#) for the most up to date information. Harry Plaut, Harbor Master is the person to contact to register for moorings. You can download Permits online from Town Website or our link. You can then mail them or drop them off at the Town Clerk's office.

**Literacy Volunteers:** No updates.

**POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development Committee):** Pauline Peterson reported that the Town of Westbrook has updated the Plan of Conservation & Development. The updated plan is posted on the Town website and can also be found on the WCOB website. It will be submitted to the State in June. Maps of the Beach Associations (although not completely accurate) are in the report.

**Affordable Housing Committee:** Pat reported this is a new committee in town. According to the state, a certain percentage of residential housing in each town must be deemed affordable housing. If the town does not meet that criteria, the state can impose a tax increase. Mobile homes were not counted in the

original inventory, so these numbers should help the town get closer to numbers the State requires. The committee is currently reviewing the inventory and the town demographics. The next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Scholarship:** Steve Smith will be speaking with the Westbrook High School soon to learn about this year's recipient.

**COB Information Exchange:** Tony Fastaia presented on how the WCOB could share operational data in common to benefit one another and improve the quality of life for all members of the associations. Please reach out to Tony with your thoughts and ideas. He is looking for input. The presentation was forward to all delegates to share at their upcoming association meetings.

**New business/old business:** The Elks club selected Pat Marcarelli as Citizen of the Year. Congratulations, Pat!

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting: June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson