

## **MAY 5, 2014 WCOB MEETING**

- **Associations represented:**
  - **Cedercrest Tax District**
  - **District of Chapman Beach**
  - **Grove Beach Improvement Association**
  - **Grove Beach Point Association**
  - **Grove Beach terrace Association**
  - **Island View Association**
  - **Middle Beach 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.**
  - **Steve Smith presented the Treasurer's Report:**
    - **The closing checking account balance as of May 1, 2014 is \$1,695.68.**
    - **The closing statement savings balance as of May 1, 2014 is \$6,383.24.**

- **No Committee Reports were given.**
- **A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2013 WCOB meeting.**
- **Harbor Commission representatives and planners presented proposed harbor commission plan and ordinances. Representatives were Bruce Lawrence, Harbor Master, Mike Farrell, Chairman Harbor Commission, Torrence Downes, River COD, Keith Rich, member of Harbor Commission, delegate and president of Pointina Beach:**
  - **The Harbor Commission has been working on plans over the last couple of years. The geographic areas included are the two rivers, federal anchorage (15 moorings for boats across from the Town Dock), beach moorings (waters and beach below the high tide line are under the jurisdiction of the State of**

**Connecticut). The Harbor Management Plan is on the website and must be adopted by town vote to accommodate the plan.**

- **The areas of concern are:**
- **Moorings would require issued permits and a fee paid.**
- **Who is regulating swimming and boating and why?**
- **How to find out which moorings are abandoned. Could lose moorings be dangerous to swimmers/boaters?**
- **Barbara Wolf stated that the Harbor Master sets the standard for the type of mooring required. Pyramid mooring is safer than mushroom. There is disagreement as to the total number of moorings. Chapman Beach has 13 moorings of which only 6 will be used. Barbara Wolf counted 130 moorings in Westbrook. The Town of Westbrook counted 200 moorings. The proposed plan will require a mooring to be brought up and checked every year. A mooring service has**

- stated that this needs to be done only every three years. There is no one size fits all for all moorings. A mooring service at the Town Dock reported charges \$400 for this service. Under state statute, the charge can be up to \$200 per permit.**
- Beginning on Section 8-4 of the proposed Harbor Commission Plan and Ordinances are new regulations.**
  - It was stated that people have been hurt terribly by abandoned/loose moorings. It was also stated that people have been cut by oyster shells. Is it worth the burden to the people?**
  - Keith Rich said that Old Saybrook has a two year inspection process and that the State statute reads that any mooring installed needs to be inspected.**
  - Section 8-5 I will be removed from the proposed Harbor Commission Plan and Ordinances.**
  - The plan and ordinance will go to a Town meeting.**
  - DEEP would permit roped swim areas. DEEP would also approve jetty and groin repairs/improvements**
  - It was stated that the law for jet ski is that there is no wake allowed within 250' of shore. We need to get Harbor Patrol out**

- there and call the policy. This law needs to be enforced more and a presence made.
- **Section 8.5 d of the proposed Harbor Commission Plan and Ordinances will be changed.**
  - **Section 8.5 e of the proposed Harbor Commission Plan and Ordinances will be changed.**
  - **Keith Rich stated that the process for obtaining a mooring permit is to complete an application, give to Joan Angellini, Town Clerk, and put in Bruce Lawrence's mailbox. Keith Rich also said that a beach association can supersede the Harbor Commission by making rules and regulations stricter.**
  - **A copy of the revised language of the proposed Harbor Commission Plan and Ordinances will be sent to Barbara Wolf. The goal is to get the proposed plan into effect by Memorial Day.**
  - **Noel Bishop, First Selectman, stated that the Board of Selectmen meeting is May 12, 2014. There was agreement that the proposed plan should not be on the agenda for the last week in May as the next WCOB meeting is the first Monday in June.**
  - **Meg Parulis will be at our next meeting to discuss her draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

- **A motion was made and approved to have the September meeting on August 25, 2014.**
  - **Bob Harris gave a presentation on FEMA backed flood insurance:**
    - **FEMA flood maps changed on February 6, 2013. Many properties are now changed to being within a flood zone. The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 impacted the Biggert-Waters Law by:**
      - **Creating a firewall on annual rate increased on flood insurance above 18%**
      - **Repeals the property sales trigger**
      - **Repeals the provision in Biggert-Waters that would have terminated grandfathering.**
      - **Refunds homeowners who overpaid**
- A motion was made and approved to adjourn.**