

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations  
Minutes  
June 5, 2023

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:03 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Cindy Howard	Vice President
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Mary Jane Monahan	Coral Sands Beach
Maria Botelho	Coral Sands Beach
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
David Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill Beach
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
Ginny DiCorleto	Grove Beach Improvement
Tom and Lucy Nobile	Pointina Beach
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Jack Zmary	West Beach
Tabatha Black	Guest Speaker

The business meeting began at 7:04PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Cindy Howard, and Pauline Peterson, Secretary and Steve Smith, Treasurer

**2023 Scholarship recipient**, Jonathan Brajczewski and his dad were introduced by Pat who presented Jonathan with a \$500 check, as this year's scholarship winner. Jonathan will be attending the University of Rhode Island, studying mechanical engineering. He will focus on aerospace, designing rockets. While at Westbrook High School, he participated in numerous clubs and sports, including soccer, basketball, track and most recently tennis. He was a varsity athlete for four years and was on the honor roll several times. He was also very involved in the community, donating several hours of his time. Once again, Pat and the audience congratulated Jonathan. He is one of 62 seniors graduating from Westbrook.

**Guest Speaker:** Pat introduced Tabitha Black, Chair of Westbrook Merchants' Association. An organization which just started in November, 2022. She owns 640 Massage Therapies on the town green. They offer facials, acupuncture, and therapeutic massages. She has been in business for 7 ½ years. Last November, Tabatha started the Westbrook Merchant's Association, a networking group for Westbrook businesses. So far, 20 businesses are in the association and more members are joining each month. The group's mission is to increase the local business involvement within the Town of Westbrook by providing resources and opportunities for businesses to thrive. Their vision is to become the voice that represents small businesses in Westbrook by bridging the gap of communication amongst other local committees and the town and to bring an increase in development and enhancement to our community and residences. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7pm at the

Highliner III Restaurant. All business members are welcome to attend. You do not need to be a merchant to get involved. They recently designed a logo and are developing a website for launch soon. They hope to implement a recurring town-wide event in the fall tentatively called "First Wednesdays". In the meantime, any business owners interested can contact the group by emailing [westbrookmerchants@outlook.com](mailto:westbrookmerchants@outlook.com)

#### **Officer's report.**

Pat stated that the minutes from the May 1, 2023 meeting are posted on line. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The Treasurer's Report from the May 1, 2023 meeting was accepted. Steve Smith reported on the treasurer's report. We have \$1,261.64 in the checking account and \$6,399.83 in the savings account as of June 4, 2023. Invoices have gone out for dues. Please send in your dues as soon as possible. The fees are \$2 per household with a minimum of \$80 per association. We renewed the Zoom membership one more year. Our balance has stayed steady over the years. Over the past year, we have donated to the Food Bank, Project Graduation, and the Scholarship Program. Please let us know if you come up with other organizations we should consider donating to. Pat introduced our new Vice President, Cindy Howard.

#### **Harbor Committee:**

Andy Calderoni reported that they have received 85 beach mooring applications, and put out 65 stickers. People are registering their boats. Lastly, Andy reported that we have a new police boat that can go under the "singing bridge" and go up the river. It was christened on May 23rd, at a ceremony at Pilot's Point where the boat will be kept. Get your orange notification stickers for your kayak, canoe and jet skis from Pat.

**Police Advisory & Traffic Boards:** Eric Peterson was absent. Nothing new to report. The next meeting is June 12, 2023 at 6pm. The Board has a new recording secretary. A conversation took place regarding speeding issues in town, speed bumps, rumble strips, speed limit and stop signs as well as police presence in the beach communities. Pat plans to attend the next traffic meeting.

#### **Alleviating Hunger:**

Tony Cozza was absent. On July 8th 9-1pm "Fill A Boat" on the Westbrook Green. The new police Marine II Boat will be on the Green. A coast guard small boat may be on the green. We are still waiting to hear back from the coast guard. We will need volunteers on that day. Mark your calendars and contact Pat or Tony Cozza if you can assist. We raise a lot of money and food for the Shoreline Food Pantry. This is one of the largest food drives. New signage is being made. We will have advertising materials available for the beach associations. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are accepted. We will also circulate flyers amongst the merchants.

**WEIA** – Andy Schatz, Tony Cozza and Jim Crawford work on this panel. It is a careers' pathway program for our students. Westbrook has been recognized nationally for our program working with local businesses. We have students doing internships in town. We have a partnership with EB, Lee Co. and several other firms in town. The Town has been nominated for a National Award this year at the national convention in San Diego. We are hoping Westbrook gets recognized. Thank you to our partners at the Board of Ed and Westbrook High School and Leslie Carlson. Westbrook is 1 of 10 national showcase finalists of economic initiative program. Leslie Carlson is amazing working with the students. 75% of high school seniors are involved in an internship - welding program, robotics program in school.

### **New Business:**

1. WCOB was asked to sponsor a Blessing of the Fleet. This has not been done since 1988. Rev. Janet Hicks from the Congregational Church brought up the idea. The First Selectman was on Board and David Russell will lead the committee. We will plan on this event for July 1 at 9:30 am rain or shine. We will plan to have the boats in formation at that time. Town of Clinton is on board. Rev. Hicks will be out on the jetty at Duck Island Roads and the boats will parade by her and receive a blessing. This will not be a lengthy affair but as boats are passing through, they will get a blessing.

2. Seaweed Mitigation – The Town of Westbrook has a two-year Certificate of Permission to mechanically remove seaweed for the public beaches only. First Selectman, John Hall, is working with Pat to see if permit can extend to private beaches so that they could hire someone to do this. More to come on this. Just a note that there are certain times of year you cannot mechanically rake the beaches because of the horseshoe mating season.

Salt Island – The Conversation Commission received funding for 68 paid hours to provide interns to watch Salt Island 1 hr. before dead low and 1 hr. after dead low to warn people walking to the island about the tide.

President & Secretary positions are up for election this year. We need new people. Please consider volunteering.

Pat reported that West Beach member, Fran Russell, wrote a book entitled “I Live in Westbrook, CT,” a story about early times in Westbrook – June 10th book signing 10-2pm at Historical Society Museum. Illustrator, West Beach resident, Bud Lomis, will also be there.

Historical Society Presentation on July 13th from 12-2pm “1890-1920 Life at West Beach”

Holbrook Foundation had their dinner and awarded the WCOB the Corporate Award. We received Recognition from the State of CT as well. The proclamation was displayed for all to view.

**Next meeting: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7 pm in person at the Town Hall, in Conference Room A.**

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Pauline Peterson  
Secretary