

JULY 7, 2014 WCOB MEETING

- **Associations represented:**
 - **District of Cedar Crest**
 - **District of Chapman Beach**
 - **Grove Beach Improvement Association**
 - **Grove Beach Point Association**
 - **Grove Beach Terrace Association**
 - **Island View Association**
 - **Middle Beach**
 - **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.)**

- **A motion was made and approved to call the meeting to order.**

- **Noel Bishop, First Selectman, spoke before the WCOB regarding the following:**
 - **He said that if residents give their e-mail addresses to the Tax Collector, they will be able to get**

their tax information in a timely manner.

○ He stated that speeding is a serious issue and that the Town has hired one additional constable for a total of seven constables. He said that the Traffic Authority has authorized money for another speed machine and that approximately 30% more infraction tickets are being issued now.

• Barbara Wolf, President WCOB, presented the 2014 WCOB Scholarship in the amount of \$500 to Stacey Wnek. Stacey Wnek was chosen by the staff, guidance counselor, and principal of Westbrook High School. The criteria for this scholarship are the student has shown the most improvement over the course of his/her high school career. Barbara Wolf stated that she was informed that Stacey Wnek had volunteered the most hours of her graduating class, has volunteered at three different summer camps, and worked at Mystic Marine Life Aquarium. She will attend Rhode Island School of Nursing and study pediatric nursing. This recipient was always a good student who then developed test anxiety but did not give up. Her testing conditions and

timing were changed, and she was able to overcome this hurdle. A photograph was taken of Stacey Wnek, her parents, and Barbara Wolf.

- **Meg Parulis, Town Planner, and Jeremy DeCarli, Coordinator of Regional Planning Agency, presented an update on the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

- **Meg Parulis stated that it is “coming down to the wire” for getting the program to FEMA. She feels that we need community input. The draft was distributed. The Planning Commission will meet on July 14. This has been a joint effort in conjunction with the Regional Planning Agency.**

- **She said that the main purpose is an interdisciplinary topic whereby areas were found that overlapped as well as areas to communicate better. The document explains programs and authority, where Westbrook is vulnerable in order of importance, what the Town is currently doing regarding these**

hazards, and what we will want to do going forward. She stated that “Chart 25” is the “beef” of the Plan and that it was purposely written vague in some areas for the purpose of obtaining grants.

- She stated that this is a plan and not a regulation. She said that this plan leads us to an evaluation and options. If a regulation change is made, there is a process. Grants have a thirty percent match. She said that the progress will need to be monitored and the Planning Commission will review on an annual basis. The Plan can be updated before five years but will need to go through a process. If changes are made, the Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be resubmitted to FEMA. Everything has to go through a cost benefit analysis in order to receive grants.

- Meg Parulis said that the Plan needs to be submitted to FEMA by the end of August and then it will go to the Board of Selectman. She said that the seventeen towns which

formed CRERPA and Mid-state Regional Agency combined in 2012 and is now known as LCRVCG.

- **She stated that the open space plan includes buildable lots that haven't been developed and that if the public can't be accommodated then an acquisition would not be made.**
- **Meg Parulis said that she would add Chapman Beach Road as a problem area due to road flooding.**
- **There was discussion of a problem with heavy military equipment on Brookside Road.**
- **The Plan will be finalized on July 14, 2014 and should be adopted by August 30, 2014.**
- **A motion was made and approved to accept the 6/2/2014 WCOB meeting minutes**
- **In Steve Smith's absence, Sharon Woods presented the Treasurer's Report:**
 - **The closing checking account balance as of July 1, 2014 is**

\$1,812.68.

- **The closing statement savings balance as of July 1, 2014 is \$6,383.56.**

- **Committee reports:**

- **Harbor Committee report: Keith Rich was not present. Per Barbara Wolf citing Bruce Lawrence at the Town Meeting, mooring permits will not be required this year.**

- **New business:**

- **Barbara Wolf discussed the zoning issues at the intersection of Boston Post Road and Chapman Beach Road whereby Vista wants to build a 24 unit condominium building. She reported that at the hearing at which the zoning variance was opposed by Chapman Beach residents because of its size, a variance supporter pointed out that the only people opposing the variance were from Chapman Beach. She recommended that in the future that a beach association should bring such**

issues to the attention of the WCOB, and people from beach associations could be organized to attend zoning hearings. The decision has yet to be announced.

- **Hammer laws were discussed. A hammer law restricts construction at certain times of the day. Island View Beach has a hammer law that restricts exterior construction from July 1 through August 30. In Island View, a fee is imposed on the violator and a lien placed against the violator's property.**

- **The proposed guest speaker for the August 4, 2014, WCOB meeting is Don Izzo, Emergency Management Director.**

- **The proposed guest speaker for the August 25, 2014, WCOB meeting is a representative from Home Energy Solutions Program. Bill Fish stated that the fee for a home owner to have this company perform an energy audit is \$99 with benefits to the homeowner of approximately \$250 per year (\$25 of this fee goes to**

the fuel assistance programs).

- **Ann Mazur discussed the lack of a blight law in Westbrook. Noel Bishop, First Selectman, said that he will present this at the next Board of Selectman meeting.**
- **A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting.**