

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations  
Minutes  
May 6, 2024

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:04 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Cindy Howard	Vice President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Amy Palumbo	Middle Beach
AnnMarie Ferreira	Middle Beach
Stephen Mason	Stannard Beach
Anthony Cozza	Island View
Ann Cole	Island View
Jacqueline Keith	Pilot's Point Beach
Richard Parks	Old Kelsey Point Beach

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

Pat called for a "Moment of Silence" in remembrance of one of our past active members, Pam Berube and also for Carol Casserino, the Elks Lodge executive secretary and volunteer of WCOB. Both will be greatly missed.

Pat introduced Ann Cole who has graciously accepted the Secretary position. She will be replacing Pauline Peterson who has been our Secretary for the past several years. Ann is a new full-time resident of Westbrook. We welcome Ann to the WCOB. Amy Palumbo introduced a new delegate for Middle Beach, AnnMarie Ferreira. We welcome AnnMarie.

**Officer's report.**

Pat stated that the draft minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting were posted on line. A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting. There being no further discussion, it was:

- VOTED: To approve the draft minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Smith reported on the Treasurer's report. We have a total of \$8,287.79 of which \$1,887.37 in the checking account and \$6,400.42 in the savings account as of May 6, 2024. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. There being no further discussion it was:

- VOTED: To approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

- Motion passed unanimously

All of the notices for dues will go out at the end of the month. If someone receives it in error, please forward the notice to the right person in your association. Also please pass on any new names of delegates and officers from your associations.

#### **Harbor Committee:**

Andy Calderoni was absent. Pat reported that Harry Plaut, the Harbormaster passed away this past year. Charles McSorley is the new Interim Harbormaster. Charlie works on the Patrol Boat with David Russell who is the Marine Patrol Officer. Charles and Andy Calderoni are taking care of the new stickers for the moorings. There is an outside firm that is doing the moorings. Everything is going well. Charles will be a great addition.

#### **Alleviating Hunger:**

Tony Cozza stated that on Saturday, July 13, 2024 from 9-1pm, we will have the Annual Food Drive "Fill A Boat". The new police boat will be on the Green. Mark your calendars. We raise a lot of money and food for the Shoreline Food Pantry. Please volunteer, we need your help. We have a program where we have team captains from each beach association going around to collect non-perishable goods or monetary donations to bring to the Food Drive.

#### **Old Business**

1. WCOB was asked to light the Christmas Tree this was year. Pat and his wife flew back from FL to participate in the event. It was pouring that evening, but the event was moved to the Fire Station and all had a great time. WCOB had a table set up for the event and we collected food items. The young women that worked at West Beach this past summer helped with the food drive. I am hopeful that WCOB participate in the Christmas Lighting ceremony every year. Everyone was very appreciative of our efforts. Since it rained, we may have a "redo" this year.

2. Mark your calendar. Saturday, June 29 from 10am to 1pm, we will plan to have the Blessing of The Fleet at Duck Islands Roads, rain or shine. This has not been done since 1988. We brought it back last year. It was a bit foggy day, but a successful event. Rev. Janet Hicks from the Congregational Church and Father Martin from St. Mark's Church will be in attendance. We will plan to have the boats in formation at 10 am. David Russell secured all the permits from the Coast Guard. This event will take place in conjunction with the tides.

3. Cannabis Update— Pat reported the cannabis shop that applied for a permit in a retail/residential area on Rte. 1 in the fall of 2022 withdrew their application. A group of residents lead by Dave Russell and Jack Zmary formed the Westbrook Citizens Committee. The Westbrook Zoning Commission formed an Ad Hoc committee of citizens and businesses to review the neighborhood/commercial district to see what businesses can go forth. We have to wait and see what they will challenge. Pat stated we have a good panel of people on the committee. They had their first meeting and will see how it goes at the next meeting. There is a moratorium for Cannabis shop in town due to expire in August.

4. The state of CT will be making changes to the Singing Bridge. They want to do this in July, but not this year. They are looking to do this in 2027. No one agrees that this should take place in July. It will impact local businesses and the community. People should express their concerns now and Tony mentioned attending a Zoom Meeting. Pat will provide details.

Annual Town Budget Meeting will take place on May 13, 2024 at the Westbrook High School Auditorium at 7pm to consider and act upon resolutions.

Preliminary Report of the Coastal Resiliency Committee will be reviewed at a meeting held in June, 2024.

Rick Parks reported that William Fish passed away a few months ago. Bill was an active member of the WCOB for many years.

**Next meeting: Monday, June 3, 2023 at 7 pm in person at the Town Hall, in the Multi Media Room.**

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Pauline Peterson  
Secretary