

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
August 16, 2021

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 7:08 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Mary Jane Monahan	Vice President
Pauline Peterson	Secretary
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Paul Beaulieu	Cedar Crest
Dave Borg	Old Kelsey Point Hill & Beach
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Tony Cozza	Island View Beach Association
Bill & Carolyn Fish	Old Kelsey Point
Ed Gales	Chapman Beach
Steve Mason	Stannard Beach
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Marie Palma	West Beach
Sam Panella	West Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association
Chet Bialicki	
Chuck Shimkus	Pilot's Point
Noel Bishop	First Selectman

The business meeting began at 7:08 PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Vice President, Mary Jane Moynihan, Steve Smith, Treasurer and Secretary, Pauline Peterson.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith reported that there is \$2,196.34 in the checking account and \$6,398.66 in the savings account. There are a few Associations that still have not paid their COB dues. The Treasurer's reported was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The July 2021 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

Vice President Report: Mary Jane reported that the Harbor News still has not published our Scholarship article even after she resubmitted it. It looks like the paper is putting one scholarship picture in every week.

She also reported that the annual International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by Save the Sound will take place on Saturday morning, September 18 from 9-12 noon. She encouraged our associations to register

for the cleanup at Savethesound.org under Westbrook West Beach. Download the app Ocean Swell to record your findings which will be tabulated to get a global picture.

She mentioned that DEEP's Torrent newsletter which focuses on flood plain management has just come out. It features a property owners guide, information on the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season, Grant opportunities, and the Resilient Nation Partnership, plus links to webinars, videos and conferences. It's worth your while to take a look! The link to the cleanup: <https://www.savethesound.org>
Link to The Torrent Newsletter from DEEP: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-Torrent-Newsletter-Summer-2021.html?soid=1104335014923&aid=-ZObZyNcUoQ>

President's Report: Pat reminded everyone of the new email address (westbrookcob@yahoo.com) created for the WCOB. He also reminded everyone to email the WCOB their updated Contacts for their Associations for the 2021 Season.

Pat introduced Eagle Scout, Ethan Franco from Boy Scout Troop 38. The WCOB is sponsoring Ethan's Eagle Scout project. He was presented virtually and will be contacted and mailed a check in the amount of \$400. The donation we made helped him reach his goal of raising \$2500. He will be building two handicap accessible picnic tables at the Senior Center patio. He will also be putting up umbrellas for the tables and installing planter boxes with flowers. Pat congratulated Ethan and Ethan thanked everyone on the call for their support.

Pat mentioned working with Town Hall to identify all of the beach associations in town and properly delineate all of the streets, respectively. In the next few months, updated maps of the town identifying the beach associations in detail will be updated and available. In addition, the Town Clerk's office will have a point of contact for each association.

Pat also stated that the first day of school is Monday, August 30, 2021.

Alleviating Hunger:

Tony Cozza is working on getting a date for the next Stuff a Cruiser with Clothes Event for the Saturday after Thanksgiving. More information will be available at the September meeting. Tony asked the WCOB to assist him in finding a volunteer to co-chair the next Stuff a Cruiser event. Please reach out to your association members and inquire about a possible candidate. There is minimal time requirement, but the help would be greatly appreciated. Noel Bishop mentioned there is a continued, increase need for food from the shoreline food pantry. He started exploring with other shoreline communities the feasibility of purchasing a Traveling Refrigeration Van to help with regional needs.

Westbrook Economic Action Initiative (WEAI) – Tony Cozza reported that the town is receiving \$1.7 million from the American Recovery Act. A public hearing will be held on September 28, 2021 at 6PM to get the Town of Westbrook residents' input. Please inform your associations and plan to attend this important meeting. The Board of Selectmen will then meet and decide what capital projects to spend the funds on over the next two years.

Traffic – Tony Fastaia was absent. Tony is retiring from the Traffic Commission and Eric Peterson is the candidate that has been nominated to represent the WCOB. The Board of Selectmen will review the nomination at their next meeting. Pat thanked Tony for all of his years of service. He will be missed.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni was absent. Pat reported that The Westbrook Harbor Management Plan requires that all private moorings along the Westbrook shoreline to be registered. Any unregistered or illegal moorings along the Westbrook shoreline will be pulled. Inspection of moorings in the areas of Middle Beach and West Beach took place over a two-day period - July 24th and 25th. Spot check inspections will continue to take place and all unregistered moorings will be considered abandoned and removed at the expense of the mooring owner.

Resiliency Committee: Pat stated that the town of Westbrook will begin work on a Resilience Plan next year. Tidal rise, climate change and flooding are a reality. This is one of the most important Town initiatives in the next few years. WCOB will ensure representation on the committee. Pat is seeking resumes of qualified professionals to qualified individuals interested in representing the WCOB. He reminded everyone of guest speaker, Jessica Beach's presentation in June. Jessica is the Chief Resilience Officer of the City of St-Augustine. Her presentation is posted on the WCOB website.

New business/old business: Information sharing – Pat stated we continue gathering information regarding this program. This is a work in progress and thus far has been most helpful.

A discussion took place on how best to manage the activity generated by construction of private residences on Bellstone Ave and Seaside Avenue during July 1 to Sept 1st. Several private construction projects are in process and the question was raised as to whether a moratorium on private/public construction projects in that area should be in effect during the summer months, for safety reasons. Pat stated that this is not a COB matter rather it is a BOS matter. Private Associations have rules in place. Town does not have a policy. Additional information will be gathered and discussed with the BOS.

Nominations / Election of Officers: Pat introduced Steve Mason, Chairman of the Nomination Committee to discuss the election of new officers. Steve thanked members of his committee, Tom Nobile and Michael Tosatti for their assistance this year. Steve nominated Pat Marcarelli as President and Pauline Peterson as Secretary. There were no nominees from the floor. All attendees voted in favor. The new officers thanked all attendees for their support.

Candidates' Forum: Mark your calendar for The Board of Selectmen Candidates' Forum scheduled for October 4th. This is an important election year. Please email Bill Fish at wmwfish@aol.com, with questions to ask the candidates prior to the event. Due to Covid, Pat is working with the Town's Health Director to determine the location/method of meeting. More information will be available at next month's meeting.

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

Next meeting: September 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Pauline Peterson