

Westbrook Council of Beach Associations
Minutes
July 11, 2022

The Westbrook Council of Beach Associations (WCOB) meeting was called to order by President Pat Marcarelli at 6:32 P.M.

The following people were in attendance:

Pat Marcarelli	President
Steve Smith	Treasurer
Gary Bazzano	Grove Beach Point
Ted Budney	Sagamore Terrace Beach
Jackie Keith	Pilot's Point
Lucy & Tom Nobile	Pointina Beach Association
Marie Palma	West Beach
Rick Parks	Old Kelsey Point
Marie Botelho	Coral Sands
Andy Calderoni	Chapman Beach
Michael Tosatti	Grove Beach Terrace Association

The business meeting began at 6:32PM. Officers in attendance were President, Pat Marcarelli, Treasurer, Steve Smith.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Smith stated that several associations still owe dues. They are the same as last year. Please mail in your dues to Westbrook Council of Beach Associations c/o Steve Smith, 24 Young Road, Westbrook, CT 06498. As of July 1, 2022, there was \$2,205.37 in the checking account and \$6,399.24 in the savings account. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's Report: The June 2022 minutes were accepted as they were posted on the WCOB website in the Archives section.

President's Report:

Pat introduced Henry Anderson, Scholarship Winner, and congratulated him. Henry thanked everyone and shared music as his passion.

Enzo Adorno was unable to attend due to family illness. He was scheduled to present an Education Project on Robotics. Hopefully he will be able to attend next month's meeting.

Paul Beaulieu from Cedar Crest Association sent Pat an e-mail advising that for taxing districts, July 1 is the mandatory filing date for the M1 financial report to OPM. This year, the State has attached a \$100 fine for late filers which can be waived under certain circumstances. OPM did send out a reminder earlier in June but not sure it reached the right people. Paul wasn't sure if Pat wanted to send out an e-mail alert to those districts so they don't get a surprise fine.

Elections: The posts of Treasurer and Vice President are open this year. Thankfully Steve Smith has chosen to stay on as Treasurer. Mary Jane has decided not to run. Steve Mason, Chair of the Nominating

Committee has stepped back from his position due to scheduling conflicts and due to meeting space concerns. Tom Nobile will continue to work with Pat regarding the VP candidate search and hopefully we can still have Steve Mason involved with the process. Pat asked for volunteers for the VP position. He would like someone committed to the role and possibly interested in moving up to President, as his term ends next year. If anyone knows of anyone interested, please notify Pat and/or Tom by next month.

Forum: Pat expressed his reservations on running the Candidates' Forum this year (2022). Running the forum has been very stressful over the last several years with Covid issues, lack of volunteers, venues and poor attendance for the years that are not specific to BOS election. He said it has been pretty much a one or two man show, and for that reason, he will not do it again under these circumstances. Next year (2023) is Selectman's Office election and that is vital to our immediate Westbrook residents. The candidates running for general state seats can canvas their respective districts in Westbrook and get their word out where needed and through other means. We will vote on this next at our next meeting.

Alleviating Hunger:

Pat stated that the Stuff a Cruiser Food Drive held on July 9th at the Town Green was a phenomenal success. As of 6/11/22, 1354 pounds of food was collected as well as over \$6,000 in cash. He thanked all the volunteers and all the generous donors.

Traffic – Eric Peterson was absent.

Harbor Management: Andy Calderoni stated that Automated Mooring System is up & running. He suggested you put the mooring in place first before signing up and registering. He also stated that due to a death several years ago and one recently, the BOS may consider closing Salt Island to the public. Andy also stated that the river dredging is complete.

Old Business/New Business:

Middle Beach has had an on-going issue with stone jetties. John Hall, who was in attendance, advised they now have approval from DEEP to move forward, along with Harbor Approval and Shellfish Approval.

Coral Sands has had seaweed issues. With the water being warm and shore storms within a two week period, this is inevitable. John Hall and Mr. Riggio are doing their best to schedule clearing out the public beaches. Pointina Beach borrowed equipment from West Beach to clear out their seaweed issues. There is a private company that will do it. Pat will get the name of the firm.

Gary Bazzano took the floor regarding tax bills. He pointed out that Grove Beach Point owns 9 properties. The tax bills were very high and took an incredible jump in numbers: some from \$9800 to \$32,000. Since the budgets were already in place, he asked how do you cover these additional costs? Most of these properties are under water. John Hall stated that they were able to keep the mill rate down. Mike Tosatti then said that many of these increases were valued on building lots the same size. John advised they should get in touch with the Board of Tax Revue. They are much more pliable than Visions Appraisal.

Harbor Channel has been dredged out. Joe Courtney was able to get funding for the town.

Frontier has invested \$4 to \$5 million dollars for fiber optics in Westbrook.

John Hall stated that Westbrook, now has two access beach wheelchairs. They are stored at the Public Beach in a shed. If you need them talk to the lifeguards. Suzanne has all the information on how the private beaches can get them.

Guest Speakers:

Pat introduced John Palermo, Director of Emergency Management. Pat stressed the importance of preparedness and evacuation readiness. He stated that Notify Me (reverse 911) and Everbridge are in place on the town's website. He also made clear that tenants should also be made aware of preparing for storms and evacuation, in case of a major storm.

John was questioned about fires on the beaches. The private beaches are allowed small campfires and he doesn't need to be notified about them. But definitely only fire wood should be used. There are NO FIRES allowed at all on Public Town beaches.

John then introduced Sue Rochester-Bolen, Deputy Regional Disaster Officer of the American Red Cross, who is based in their Montvale office. She gave an amazing presentation of all the facts for every type of disaster we can face in Connecticut.

Emergency Preparedness, Hazards, Getting a kit ready for your home car and office. Stressing, ALWAYS have a plan, communication after a disaster and handling emotional health after a disaster. All of this information can be found on redcross.org.

Pat thanked her for such an informative presentation.

Next Meeting:

Pat stated that the next WCOB meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8th at 7pm, downstairs at Town Hall. The change in room location is due to Town Commissions' meetings taking priority for the multi media room. Even though our By-Laws state that we meet on the 1st Monday of the month, we have had to be flexible over the last two to three years due to Covid. Everyone is trying to catch up on in person meetings. Pat asked everyone present if they would prefer, we change the date of the next meeting to Wednesday, August 3rd and have it in the Multi Media Room. The majority said yes to the change of date and location. All were in agreement to have the WCOB meeting upstairs.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 7PM in person at the Town Hall, in the Multi Media Room. Please note the change in time. Pat will look into changing the September meeting date and location. That would also have to be a Wednesday, September 7th. More to come on that.

There was no other business discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Marie Palma
For Pat Marcarelli, President