

## *November and December, 2005*

*Edited by Janet Dickey and Kelly Giuliano*

### **A message from the Chairman of the Board of Governors. By: Tony Zimmitti**

It's late November and all is well at Grove Beach Point. The Board of Directors has been meeting monthly, and will continue to do so during the coming winter, except December. I would like to briefly share with you highlights of the projects and issues we have been dealing with this year. First things first, however.

Personally, and on behalf of the Association, I want to thank the people who make things happen. People like **Helen Dyar**, who for years has been the editor of our "Newsletter." **Petra Shearer**, who has and continues to have, the responsibility for the collection of association taxes, and all that it implies. Petra is a founder and treasurer of the newly incorporated Connecticut Communities Coalition, or C3, established primarily to affect much needed tax reforms in our state. **Ken Penfield**, our treasurer, who does a splendid job amid the pressures that go with that position. **Gary Bazzano**, the Vice Chair, without his contribution, and of course his lean but mean army, **Jim and Dave Brauit**, **Dan Carter**, **Gary Kozlowski**, **Joe Gionfrido**, **Shaun Dyson**, and whomever else he can deputize, our recreational facilities would not be anywhere near the level that we have become accustomed to. (A little more help in this area would be greatly appreciated.) **Rick McGinley**, whose hair turned grayer and grayer because of his dealings with the DEP in connection with our beach restoration project which he heads. **Jon Lovejoy** and **Jim Brault**, who

continue to provide expert assistance, and were responsible for updating the Association Charter. **Gerry Dyar**, our computer whiz, who is responsible for the set-up and maintenance of the Grove Beach Point Association, Inc., website. He is also our representative to and the president of the Council of Beaches, and a founder of and representative to C3. **Jeanne Lovejoy**, who has done, and continues to do so much to beautify GBPA. **Joe Palmieri**, who handled the electric power upgrade at the patio. **Dana Lombardi**, the key player responsible for the "Survey" project. **Len Lombardi** for heading up the septic system committee. **Barbara Peat** for her gardening at the patio. **John Rossi**, and others like him who frequently clean the beach and the patio area. **Jack and Peggy Tine** for heading up the breakfast committee. **Susan Dubois** and **Gretchen Rossi**, who have volunteered to take over that task. **Marion Scherer** for the "potluck" supper, and her husband **Michael** for donating and setting up the wonderful sound system. **The Vibberts**, for continuing to beautify the Association's turn around at the end of Old Mail Trail and making it one of the most colorful spots the Association has for people to enjoy. **Janet Dickey** and **Kelly Giuliano** who are assuming the task of co-editing the Newsletter starting this edition. I have grossly minimized what all the individuals I mentioned do; this group is nothing short of a "Multi-task Unit" capable of dealing with whatever they are assigned. Thanks are also in order for all Board members and member volunteers on the various committees, and all who contribute in making Grove Beach Point all that it is. Thank you! There are many more who should be mentioned, but I can hear the editors screaming because I am rambling on...

Now for some of the highlights. This year, nourishment of the beach was a big part of the beach restoration project. A new

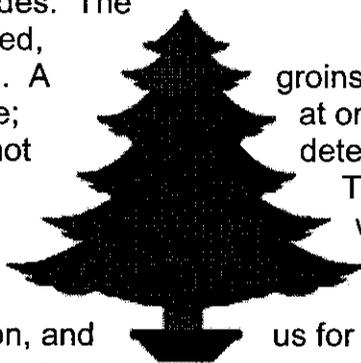
experience for the Association was the very first ever petitioned Special Meeting. The Association Charter was revised, and by an Act of the State General Assembly, incorporated. The movie at the beach became a reality, and what a big, big, big hit. A survey was sent out to all members. It was designed to provide a sense of direction. The response has been phenomenal- nearly 50%. The results are being reported via the newsletters. New caution banners were purchased by the Association, as well as individual residents, in an attempt to slow down traffic, and it seems to be working. The electric service at the patio was upgraded, and now complies with current building codes. The basketball backboard was replaced, and the swim raft ladder repaired. A voting mechanism is now in place; remember this year's voting did not go very smoothly. The Board of Directors "walked" the Association property. A study is currently underway of all property owned by the Association, and its tax burden. A number of issues are under discussion: bringing drinking water to the patio area; repairing the patio driveway; speed bumps; land usage; disaster plan; ownership and voting rights; security; improvement in garbage collection; goals and objectives; etc.

Finally, it is to be noted that in the last year or so, nearly half of the Board is made up of new members, and, oh yes, a new chairman was elected. ***Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!***

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## **Beach Committee Report By Rick McGinley**

I would like to take this opportunity to outline what has transpired regarding the D.E.P. approval process over the years. It is important to remember that everything we have accomplished was at the guidance and direction of the D.E.P., a/k/a the State Department of Environmental Protection. Any scenario of events could have happened since all procedures must first be approved by the D.E.P. who happen to have their own agenda and mandates. What might seem reasonable to us is not always reasonable to the D.E.P.



We first applied to rebuild eight groins on our beach. (All eight were there at one point but, in some cases, had deteriorated to almost non-existence.) The D.E.P. advised us to come back with a Certificate of Permission, or COP. We did so, for all eight groins. The D.E.P. only approved us for three groins, and they asked us to remove the remains of the other five. We did not on the grounds that whatever little value they give us we wanted to keep. We rebuilt the three, and then we reapplied for the five that we had been denied. At the same time we applied to nourish our beach with sand from the sandbars. As the application was pending, for quite some time, we met with the D.E.P. on the beach. At that meeting, Doane/Collins Engineers commented that without more structures we would not be able to hold the sand. The D.E.P. told us that if we persisted in asking for more structures they would issue an "intent to deny." However, if we only asked for permission to nourish our beach our application could be placed on the fast track. So, we asked for permission to bring sand from the sandbars. After that application was pending, for quite some time, the D.E.P. said that it was "unacceptable" because the sand was not suitable for nourishment. The D.E.P.

advised us to proceed with a COP to nourish the beach from an onshore source.

Next we invited them to come see our beach and offer guidance and advice on where to go from here. Although we first invited them in July, they finally accepted and we met on November 29, 2005 at 10AM. Present: Michael Gryzwinski – DEP, George Whisker –DEP, Bob Doane – Doane Collins Engineering, Rick McGinley, Maureen Shanley, Gary Bazzano, Joe Palmieri, all members of the Grove Beach Point Association.

The meeting started with a walk down the beach, as far as Shanley's house where a conversation took place that lasted about 45 minutes. We discussed what the beach looked like prior to importing sand, what the beach looked like subsequent to importing sand, and what the beach looked like now. We looked at some before and after photographs. All present agreed that we were losing sand. George Whisker spoke at length about the sand in the channel and when it would again need to be dredged. He was in favor of placing it on our beach, provided it was sand and not mud. He believes the outer channel is sand. He also said how he had discussions and correspondence with the town and the marinas. He mentioned Reeve Potts in particular, and the First Selectman, who is no longer in office. He said that somehow they were under the misconception that the D.E.P. did not want to place sand from the dredging operations on the beach. He is in the process of clearing up that misconception, and that in the future the DEP will not permit sand excavated from the dredging operations to be dumped into the ocean. He believes we have a classic case of "dredge the channel nourish the beach." **He has and will continue to advise the interested parties that there will be no future permit issued to dump sand into the ocean.**

**Suddenly we have major help in obtaining sand from future dredge operations.**

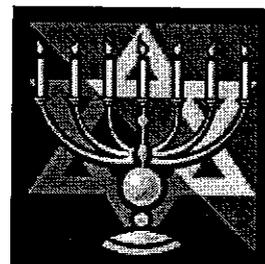
We discussed at length the possibility of building more structures to aid in the maintenance of our beach. The D.E.P. wants us to give them more data in the support of that request. They said that a study of the wave and current actions would be necessary for them to justify the type of structures that would work. They want to be very sure that the structures are built and placed optimally for the performance of the beach. George and Michael both agreed that because of our past permits it was going to be a relatively easy process to get the permission that is necessary for maintenance of our beach in the future. George suggested that we move sand from the west end of our beach to the east end periodically in an attempt to keep it.

**We did not hear the word no, impossible, or improbable.**

It was a very encouraging meeting. I feel very optimistic that our persistence is paying off, and we will finally get what we need to maintain our beach: structures to hold sand and a **future source of sand.**

**During all of our efforts it is important not to lose sight of the Goal, which is to get a good stable beach at the least possible cost.**

**Please read the Newsletters to keep posted on our progress.**



**Survey Report**  
**Topic: Property Development**  
**By Dana Lombardi**

Just to recap general survey information, the return rate for the survey is at 49%. 46% responded to most of the questions on property development and more than half of these responders indicated that they do not want to increase the parking area, the kayak/canoe launch area or add a covered pavilion. Some responders were unaware that we have a boat dock at the end of Indian Trail and that the turn around at the end of Old Mail Trail has been designated as a kayak launch area.

The beach is used by 70% of the responders. Several reported that they mainly enjoy walking on the beach. 21% never use the beach. 9% did not respond. More than half of the responders do not use the picnic tables, the basketball court, boat dock or parking area. Frequent users of these facilities with the exception of the beach ranged from 9% to 13% and seldom users ranged from 13% to 38%.

19% had suggestions for "other" property development. Highest among these was securing water on the patio for drinking and rinsing sandy feet. This is already in the planning stage and should be available for next season. Cleaning and refurbishing the beach was the next highest suggestion and almost all responders want the Association property well maintained. There was one suggestion for having a summer work party so that more people, especially the children, could volunteer to help with the upkeep of Association property. Many commented that they appreciate the volunteers who water, weed, plant and mow, as well as the ones who take care of the flag and the floats.

In the next issue of the newsletter the questions relating to social activity participation and suggestions will be reviewed.

If you have any questions or comments on the survey please drop a line to: Dana P.O. Box 754, Westbrook, CT 06498. ATTN: survey.

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**CT Communities Coalition Report**  
**By Gerry Dyar, VP & COB Rep.**

As you can see we've dropped the word "Coastal" from our name, so we're now C3 for short instead of C4. It was branding us as a "rich persons" group. As we all know the problems of revaluation effects property owners at ALL income levels. If you go to our old web site you will be redirected to our new URL. Make the visit now to update the C3 Favorites listing in your browser and to get a complete report on our activities.



At our annual meeting we voted to change our dues structure. Complete details are on the web site but the main change is in individual and family memberships. These have been changed from \$50 to \$12 and will take effect now for new members and 12 months from the time you joined for renewals. Now that we are making presentations several times a week it is essential that we have as many members as possible. Politicians only respect issues with broad based support and it's essential we have yours as individuals.

If you have issues or questions please let me know.

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**Council Of Beaches Report  
By Gerry Dyar, Chairman. & GBPA Rep.**

The COB was active during the Town election. We asked each Selectman and Board of Finance Candidate to state their position, pro, con or neutral, on the C3's property valuation reform legislation. Eventually ALL the candidates stated they were in favor of this or similar reform. We will be following this closely as C3 makes their pitch to the regional Council's of Governments where our newly elected officials have a voice, to make sure they follow up with their support.

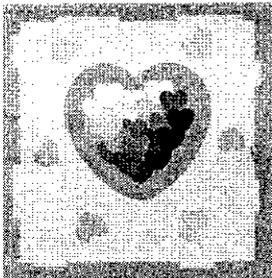
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**Bouquets To:**

Gary Root for his efforts on obtaining American flags for us in previous years.  
Mary Marringa for picking up a large amount of debris on her walks on the beach in November.

**Milestones:**

In October, Richard Dyson passed away. Dick was a lifetime resident of G.B.P. Our deepest sympathy to Dick's family.



On November 11th, Chris Vincent and Tovah Potrzebowski were married at Grove Beach Point. In January, Chris will be deployed to Afghanistan for a tour with the Army National Guard 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Congratulations and our best wishes are with the happy couple.

**Potpourri:**

To clarify for our members that the term "Association Beach" means the whole length of our Association property, not just the area in front of the patio. In the survey some members said that they never use the beach even though they live on the water. We think they meant the beach at the patio.

**Smiles:**

**Poetry by Katie Russo, age 8.  
Granddaughter of Rick McGinley.**

POP POP

Pop Pop is a very special grandfather,  
He loves poems, like me.  
We are two of a kind,  
Mind to mind,  
We love each other so much,  
Pop Pop is so much fun,  
I love him.

***Happy New Year!***

