



# *Grove Beach Point Association, Inc.* 1.

*P.O. Box 754 Westbrook, CT 06498-0754*

## *Grove Beach Point Newsletter*

*Helen Dyar- Editor*

*February 17, 2004*

### HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY to EVERYONE!



We had quite a winter in Westbrook! We're hoping we may have seen the end of snow and very cold temperatures but I'm not holding my breathe on that. Although on a

warmer day you can almost smell Spring trying to break through. Oops, now that I've said that, will this mean we'll have the blizzard of '04 in March?

### NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jeanne Lovejoy

I hope you all had a Holiday Season to be long remembered. We are now all thinking of warm weather and outside activities.

Your Board met in November and February discussing a variety of topics, such as the Osprey nests, Insurance, Beach attendants and fun activities for the little ones, security, sand, clean up, garbage, newsletter, nominations, septic cleaning, GBPA signs, July 4th Breakfast, Charter, Taxing fees, Annual Meeting, correspondence and more! The Board decided not to have monthly meetings and try to have a limited schedule.

Our next meeting will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Dyars. As you know any member of GBPA

is welcome to come to any of the Board meetings. We just ask that you call and let us know you are coming, as we have them in our homes we want to be sure to have enough coffee!

Please be sure to look under BOUQUETS for the letters the Board has sent to some of our members to show our appreciation for their unselfish dedication to GBPA.

### WINTER GATHERINGS

We had one January 10th at the Dyars home, with a fun group enjoying the appetizers, drinks and the company. The next is scheduled for February 21st at the Lovejoy's. After that we will go back to the patio gatherings.

### GARBAGE/RECYCLING

The forms for the summer residents will be sent with the next newsletter. Every thing is the same as last year.

### FLAG HONORING

The Board received a note with an American Flag from the Peruti family asking us to fly the flag this summer in honor of Frank Peruti. We will fly this flag for Memorial Day on our flag pole on the patio.



2.

EACH PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Rick McGinley, Chair

*The following is a letter sent to "The Board of Selectmen, Westbrook, CT".*

Dear Mr. Palermo, Ms Reeves and Ms. Greaves;

It has come to our attention that the town of Westbrook is once again asking for permission to dredge material from the mouth of the Menunketesuck and Patchogue Rivers.

The members of The Grove Beach Point Association have an application #COP -2003-178-MG dated October 28,2003 and received for review on November 14, 2003, pending before the DEP.

We are asking permission to nourish our beach, which has seriously eroded. I believe that all the agencies, departments, committees in the town of Westbrook, that are concerned with this issue are aware, or should be aware, that we have actively been attempting to nourish our beach and correct an erosion problems for several years. We have extended considerable effort and money in this pursuit. We have thus far been successful in constructing and repairing groins to help retain future nourishment.

We are very concerned, that despite all our efforts, it seems the channel is dredged regularly with no apparent consideration of placing the sand on our beach. This is obvious, because we have never received any correspondence from the town or its agencies, recognizing that we both have a problem, and that the two problems, **erosion** of the beach and **accretion** in the channel are related. We feel that there is no reasonable person who would conclude that

the dredging of a channel adjacent to a beach would have no effect on that beach.

However, each time the channel is dredged it appears to be an **emergency** and the extra time and effort of trying to put the materials in a reasonable, desirable and logical location cannot be considered.



I think it is time that we stop calling the dredging an emergency. As surely as the beach will erode, the channel will accrete.

An emergency is something that happens unexpectedly. That the channel will need dredging, should not be an emergency, but rather a planned and anticipated necessity.

The time has come, when the dredging of the Access of the waterway through Duck Island Roads to the mouth of the Menunketesuck and Patchogue Rivers should not be considered until the beaches in close proximity have been evaluated and the property owners consulted.

Even zoning regulations require abutting property owners to be notified of coming proposals.

The Grove Beach Point Association Inc. In its entirety has a grand list in excess of Twenty Eight Million Dollars. It is a shame that the town of Westbrook would use our tax dollars to dump materials into the ocean, while we have to spend additional monies to buy material to nourish our beach. This is true in any case. However, in this particular case it is a no brainer. You want to move materials out of the channel which is right next to our beach. Placing



3.  
that material on our beach is the most logical, the easiest, and least expensive method of disposal, **and it benefits everyone.**

At this very time the EPA is determining the best methods to dispose of dredged materials, and if you ask, they will tell you that the preferred disposal site is on a beach.

We should be doing everything in our power to place this material on the beach, not resisting such a proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick McGinley  
Chairman GBPA Beach Preservation  
Committee.

**Please read the Newsletter to keep posted on our progress and all the events at "GBP".**

BEACH COMMITTEE

Kris Brault-chairperson

We are currently looking into bringing back "movie night" to the beach. We are planning to show a movie one night a week starting this summer on the patio. We are in the process of getting in touch with other beach association members to see how it can be done.



However, if any of our Association members have technical expertise in this area we would love to hear from you. Please contact me (Kris Brault) at 860-620-9584.

AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEARS  
2001-2002 & 2002-2003

To: Board of Governors  
Grove Beach Point Association, Inc.

At your request and acting as a member of the Association I have examined the Association's annual financial reports for the years ending 6/30/02 and 6/30/03, as well as the documents and materials used in their preparation.

In my opinion, they present fairly the financial position of the Association as of those dates, and the results of its operations for the fiscal years then ended.

The materials and documents have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In addition to examining a copy of the computerized books kept in Quicken by Treasurer Ken Penfield I interviewed the Association's Tax Collector Petra Shearer about the procedures she goes through to have the Associations tax bills generated from the appropriate records in the Town of Westbrook's grand list. The actual computer processing required is done at the Association's expense by the same service bureau the Town uses.

I found no reason to recommend any changes to the procedures currently in use by Ken or Petra and believe the checks and balances inherent in the way funds are processed between the two positions are in themselves self auditing.

Both Ken and Petra are to be commended for the professional job they are doing for the Association. We are fortunate to have such competent volunteers working on our behalf.

Sincerely,  
T. Gerald Dyar

4.  
COUNCIL OF BEACH ASSOCIATIONS

Gerry Dyar-President of COB & GBPA Rep.

The Board of Selectmen, on Thursday, 1/15, voted unanimously to forward two separate resolution requests for open space purchases to the Board of Finance for their meeting on 1/21/04. One request will be for \$310K for the purchase of 28+/- acres of property on Horse Hill Road while the second will be for 8+/- acres of land behind the new post office referred to as the Salt Island property, for the sum of \$610K.

At the 1/21/04 BOF meeting, the Board recommended that the purchase proceeds, and there will next be a town meeting on 2/12, followed by a referendum vote on 2/24.



At present, there is a bill pending in the US Senate which, if passed, will result in the town getting a \$300K federal grant for the latter purchase. There is also an outside chance of receiving an additional

\$150K from the state for this purchase, however, at this time that is deemed to be highly unlikely. The timing of the decision on the federal grant is not firm and it is uncertain if it will be known before the dates highlighted above.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

\* The absentee ballot request form can be obtained online by going to [www.sots.state.ct.us](http://www.sots.state.ct.us) and clicking on "download forms", then going to "application for Absentee Ballot". **BE SURE YOU FILL IN THE CORRECT DATE OF THE REFERENDUM ON THE FORM.**

\* If you are not a registered voter but you are a property owner in Westbrook, you can

still vote, but you will need to fill out an additional form. You can request this "Property Owner's Form" from Laurie Baldi, the town clerk, and request an absentee ballot form at the same time. We'd suggest calling her by phone for this so everything comes out right the first time. Her number is 860-399-3044. The Property Owner's form is also on the town web site <http://www.westbrookct.us/>.

\* Be sure you fill in the correct date of the referendum on the forms.

\* If you want a copy of the absentee balloting procedure I wrote up for the Council of Beaches contact me at [tgdyar@sfpasc.com](mailto:tgdyar@sfpasc.com) and I'll email you a copy in PDF format.

\* If you didn't get a copy of the brochure about the land acquisitions, prepared by the Trust for Public Lands, in the mail, email me at [tgdyar@sfpasc.com](mailto:tgdyar@sfpasc.com) and I'll email you a copy. It's a 709KB PDF file.

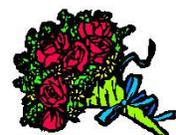
\* If you want additional analytical information about this issue contact Ross Cushman at [ROANDBL@aol.com](mailto:ROANDBL@aol.com).

\* While you're requesting absentee ballots don't forget there is a Democratic Primary on March 2nd.

\* If you know of any beach association members who want to be on the Council of Beaches email list have them contact Menno Marringa, our Corresponding Secretary, at [marringa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marringa@sbcglobal.net).

**BOUQUETS:**

And the following letters to Gerry Dyar & Brian & Lucille Vibberts from GBPA Board.



5.  
November 24, 2003

Dear Gerry:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Grove Beach Point Association, (GBPA) I want to thank you for doing the audit for the fiscal years 2001-2001 and 2002-2003.

I realize you did our treasurer, Ken Penfield's books as well as interviewing the Association's Tax collector, Petra Shearer regarding her procedures with the Town of Westbrook's grand list.

We are very fortunate to have such a competent volunteer working on behalf of GBPA.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Lovejoy  
Chair

Dear Brian and Lucille:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of Grove Beach Point Association, I want to thank you for continuing to beautify the Association's turn-around at the end of Old Mail Trail.

Do you realize how many people make their daily walks down Old Mail Trail in the summer just to see all you have done and to admire the beautiful colors? The flowers, and all the perfect touches you both add, are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Lovejoy  
Chair

## SMILES

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.



### **Board of Governors:**

*Jeanne Lovejoy-Chair  
Tony Zimmitti- Vice-chair  
Ken Penfield-Treasurer  
Betty Weber-Clerk  
Rick McGinley-Beach Preservation Chair  
Jeanne Lovejoy-"Roving Reporter"  
Dana Lombardi  
Tom Montifiore  
Kristine Brault- Beach Committee Liaison  
Helen Dyar- Newsletter Editor*

