



March 2007

Compiled by Janet Dickey
and Kelly Giuliano

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

Spring is around the corner, and I hope all is well with you.

During the winter months the Board of Governors met monthly, when necessary more frequently, to address Association's matters.

This is the first newsletter of the new year and I would like to briefly share with you highlight of projects and issues of the previous year, as well as matters the BOG and the various committee are currently dealing with.

One of the main highlights was the special meeting of last October, called to ask the membership permission to approve and finance a study necessary for the development of a beach erosion control plan. We had a tremendous turn out. As you may remember, the vote was close; the membership approved the study, but chose not to finance it. Other matters, such as repairs to the driveway leading to the patio, replacement of benches and umbrellas, repairing of the picnic tables, etc., were deemed more urgent.

In other activities last year, the July breakfast, bike parade, potluck supper, movies at the beach, etc. were all a big hit. Addressing the traffic safety issue within the Association's limits met with a great deal of approval; this matter will continue to receive its due attention this year. The results of the "Survey" were published, Council of Beaches reports, Connecticut Communities Coalition reports, Chamber of Commerce news, etc., appeared regularly in this publication. The beach swim area with new lines, buoys and signs is in the

process of being upgraded to be in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Also, note that the BOG and the various Committees, have been and continue to work on a number of projects and issues: water and electricity on the patio; driveway repairs; beach preservation; public safety goals (signs, banners, rules); disaster plan; garbage control (perhaps one contractor for the entire Association would be a plus); review of the Charter; beach clean-up; establish standing committees; update job descriptions; recruit back-up personnel for critical jobs; update residents list; etc., etc., etc.

One major task of the Board has been the preparation of the 2007-8 budget. At the last session each of the Operating Expenses Budget line items was discussed and debated at length and the proposed budget is being finalized.

The new "assessment" of the properties owned by the Association has been received. Some assets have increased and others have decreased. The method for

evaluating these types of assets seems mysterious.

The BOG has decided to appeal what appears to be a random and capricious process. Personally I argued our position with

the manager of the company that conducted the assessment, and feel confident we made our case; we now await the response.

Again this year, we need to acknowledge how fortunate we are to have in this association individuals like **Gerry Dyar**, who among other things implemented the Association Web Site, and researched GBPA's land records; **Petra Shearer** who deals with the tax collection chores; **David Brault**, our Treasurer; **John Rossi** who faithfully grooms the beach and the patio area almost daily, and also assists the beach monitor with her duties; **Gary Bazzano** and his army who manage the recreation activities; **Janet Dickey, Kelly Giuliano, and Helen Dyar**, newsletter; **Rich McGinley** with the tough beach restoration responsibilities; **John Lovejoy** and **Jim Brault**

The next Board of
Governor's Meeting
will be on 4/4 at 6:30
at the Zimmitti's.

for their invaluable assistance (we are “saddened” some of us upset – to hear that **John and Jeanne Lovejoy** have decided to leave GBP and move to an “active community” where maintenance is not an issue); **Gretchen Rossi** and **Susan Dubois**, July breakfast; **Marion Scherer**, pot-luck supper; **the Vibberts**, for the beautiful landscaping at the Associations turn-around; **Barbara Pete**, patio gardening; **Joe Palmieri**, water and electricity at the Patio, also researching for the patio’s new benches and tables; **Len Lombardi**, our “Sanitarian”, plus with **Dana Lombardi** the maintenance of Basset park; all the Board members who donate their time and expertise. Finally, all the others who volunteer to mow the lawn, help with clean-ups, and make Grove Beach Point the beautiful place that it is. Thank you to all.

On a sad note, we want to report the death of **Mr. Thomas F. DeLucco Jr.** who died December 22, 2006. **Mrs. Shirley Johnson**, 72, October 25, 2006. **Mr. Stanley J. Kozlowski**, 86, December 1, 2006. **David C. Lacey**, 25, the son of **David and Jane (Mahon) Lacey** who died December 10, 2006. **Mrs. JoAnn Irene (Caulkins) Papa**, October 27, 2006. Our deepest sympathies go to the respective families.

Connecticut Communities Coalition Report By Gerry Dyar

The news from C3 about our proposed property valuation freeze is not good. There have been close to 100 bills introduced in this session relating to taxation, including ours. As of this writing the Planning & Development Committee and the Finance Committee have chosen to introduce their own bills rather than adopt any of these. P&D's hearing on their draft showed that it was unacceptable to almost everyone who expressed an opinion. Finance has not released their bill as yet.

We have been talking steadily to Legislators and hired a new lobbyist, but our efforts have been met by a solid wall of seeming indifference. As always any contact you can have with your own elected representatives would help, but it does seem to be an uphill battle.

Since this is a long session we'll have an update from the trenches in the next issue of the bulletin.

Council of Beaches Report By Gerry Dyar

Our petition to phase in the results of the current revaluation over a period of five years is still very much on the table. Now that the revaluation itself is complete and the draft budget for the Town for 2007-2008 is almost ready we expect to see dates set soon for an informational meeting and a referendum on the issue. In the meantime keep the pressure on the Board of Selectmen about your interest in this issue!

Septic Committee Report By Leonard Lombardi

On December 14, 2006, at a Special Town Meeting, an ordinance entitled “On site Sewage Disposal Systems” was approved. This ordinance will effect all residents of Westbrook. Highlights of this new regulation are:

- 1) The Director of Health has the right to inspect On- Site Sewage Disposal Systems (which will be referred to as Septic Systems in the following).
- 2) No new residential building will be constructed without an approval to construct a Septic System.
- 3) Building conversions (to allow continuous occupancy/winterization) are permitted only after documentation that the septic system has been pumped out in the last five (5) years and is neither a malfunctioning or failed system.
- 4) Building conversions are not allowed unless steel tanks in the septic system are replaced with those complying with code.
- 5) Septic Systems must be pumped out and inspected once every five years by an approved septic tank cleaner /installer.
- 6) Repairs to the system must be done 30 days from the date of notification to the town.

7) Inspections are reported to the town by the cleaner for incorporation in the town data base.

8) The Director of Health may require more frequent pump outs. More frequent pump outs may be required for undersized septic tanks or cesspools.

9) If systems fail or if scheduled maintenance is not preformed a permit to discharge may be revoked.

10) The Director of Health shall establish a schedule for maintenance of septic systems and individual homeowners will be notified if they haven't been pumped out in five years.

11) Cleaners will notify the Director of Health the dates properties will be pumped out.

A Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems is a valuable brochure for understanding and maintaining septic systems and is available in the Town Hall. In future newsletters, we will offer suggestions for maintaining a healthy septic system as a reminder that septic systems must be pumped out.

Garbage & Recyclables By Gary Bazzano

We will be staying with Hometown waste for another year. The new price per month will be \$21.00. The BOG had interviewed other haulers for this project but we decided to stay with Hometown Waste for at least one more year. I have had quite a number of complaints from members about Hometown's practices. Let me assure you that these problems have been addressed with Hometown Waste and we shouldn't see the problems we have had in the past. Jim Palumbo will be the contact person at Hometown Waste. His telephone number is 860-245-8840. **Please call him with any problems you may have regarding your rubbish pickup. If we do not see improvements this year, we will definitely be soliciting bids from other haulers for next year's pickup.** Just a reminder to the year round residents, that starting in May, all pickups will be on Mondays. Please remember to

complete the form attached to this Newsletter and send it in with a check to Hometown Waste. The form is for recycling and rubbish pickup. If anyone has any issues with Hometown Waste, please contact me at 860-604-0500 or gbazz@cox.net.

Special Projects Committee By Joe Palmieri

We have some thoughts and ideas to improve our beach area. New benches, re-worked picnic tables, and still looking into supplying water at the beach. The BoG has been really busy. Hope all is well with you and your families. See you soon.

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GARBAGE/RECYCLING COLLECTION

We have been doing the “group” garbage collection from Neelys Waste Removal Company (Hometown Waste, LLC) since October 1, 1996. The monthly fee is now \$21.00. The summer residents have a choice of the 4 month plan or the 6 month plan as follows:

May 15 to September 15 – 4 month plan for \$84.00
May 1 to November 1 – 6 month plan for \$126.00

The full time residents will be billed directly by Hometown Waste, LLC @ \$21.00 per month.

Garbage and recycling pick up will be on MONDAY starting in May.

NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

GBPA Address: _____

Four Month Plan enclose \$84.00 _____ Six Month Plan enclose \$126.00 _____

Make Checks Payable to Hometown Waste, LLC

Please mail this completed form with your payment in advance to:

Hometown Waste, LLC
P.O. Box 1340
Madison, CT 06443

If you have any questions concerning your bill please call 203.245.8840.