



June 2006

Compiled by Janet Dickey and Kelly Giuliano

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

We had a great turn out for the Association's Annual Meeting. Thank you all for coming! The weather threatened, but it cooperated; unfortunately, it did not allow for the set-up of the sound system. All in all, the budget was passed; the slate of candidates was voted in; the various committee reports were heard and discussed. Everyone was very pleased that the Association's taxes were not being increased. The Treasurer answered many questions regarding the budget to the satisfaction of the membership. As promised, a new voting mechanism was in place. Gary Bazzano did a lot of work to set it up, however, because there weren't any floor nominations-therefore no voting by ballot necessary- the system was not tested. David Brault and Ken Penfield were reelected. New to the Board is Maureen Shanley; congratulations and welcome on board Maureen!

Following the Annual Meeting, the Board met for the purpose of electing the Officers who will be serving the Association this year. Tony Zimmitti (Chair); Gary Bazzano (Vice Chair); David Brault (Treasurer); Al Dubois (Clerk). You may

call any of the Board Members if you have any questions.

And now for some other news. As you know, within our Association, there have been many complaints concerning the disregard of traffic regulations, primarily speed limit, and not stopping for stop signs. The recent survey revealed the seriousness of the problem. The Association and some of the residents have addressed the issue for some time. Signs have been installed at several locations in an attempt to slow down traffic and prevent what could possibly turn into a tragedy. Especially this time of year when lots of kids play outside, all of us must practice responsible driving. The Board, as well as other residents, have contemplated the placements of "speed humps." New technology has developed equipment that is very car-friendly, yet seems to do the job.

This week, I attended the meeting of the Police Advisory/Traffic Authority Board to learn more about speed-humps or other means designed to slow down traffic. I asked John Rossi to come to the meeting.

Representatives of the West Beach Association were also present. West Beach has been asking the Town for a permit to install these devices for several years, but the request has always been denied. The reason the Town cites for the denial is "liability." At this meeting, however, we asked the Traffic Board to reexamine the matter. The First Selectman urged the Board to speed up the review process. We will keep you informed.

We learned that there are other means to address the problems. For example, "painted sidewalks," additional



“pedestrian crossings” having a small sign at the center (drivers seem to respect these crossings), “larger reflecting stop signs,” etc. Catherine Winger, Chairman of the Westbrook Traffic Authority, said that “*enforcement*” works. She promised all of us there is going to be a significant increase in traffic regulations enforcement. Constable Michael Oryl added that “it will cost you \$114.00 if you fail to stop at a stop sign, and get caught, no ifs’ or buts’.”

I invited Ms. Winger to visit our Association. She graciously accepted and was at my house early the next morning. A hastily formed ad-hoc committee (Jack Tine, Joe Palmieri, John Rossi and me) met with Kathy. We walked GBPA area roads, and ideas and suggestions were discussed. Approved were two new pedestrian crossings: one on Indian Trail near the Gazebo; the other at the intersection of Riverview Rd. and Menunketesuck. The existing one at Old Mail Trail, at the patio, will be repainted. Perhaps a new one will be painted in that high traffic area. Also, pending review/approval by the Traffic Authority Board, Kathy agreed that we should make more visible some of the existing stop signs and add a few more at various other points, paint several more pedestrian crossings and possibly one walkway. Hopefully these actions will increase safety. You will be kept informed.

The GBPA 4th of July breakfast is scheduled to be held on Saturday, July 1, 2006 at 9:00am to 10:30am, at the patio. Rain date: Sunday, July 2, 2006. Admission: \$5.00. Children 8 & under: free. Volunteers are still needed! Please contact Gretchen Rossi at (860) 669-2681.

Now, have a great and safe summer!



Beach Committee Report By Gary Bazzano

I would like to thank everyone for their patience at the Annual Meeting. The voting process went well, and all those who attended seemed to be receptive and respective of the new process that will be in effect for years to come.

The raft will be going in, as soon as we can get to it. We have to make sure the weather and tides cooperate in order for it to be launched. The caution banners should also be put up in the coming weeks, and a reminder to all who have their own; start hanging them as soon as possible. **This year, GBPA will be striving for maximum safety.**

Back by popular demand are the Movies on the Beach. We are going to try to have a couple of viewings in July and mainly in August. The movies will be shown on Friday nights. The movies were attended by all ages, so don't ever think that you are too old or too young to come down and enjoy a good flick. The 4th of July games on the beach will be run this year by Kim Hamernik and Dan Carter (who were participants when they were children). The games are scheduled for July 1 after the Breakfast on the Beach. Our beach guard will be Chelsea Carter, who will be working only weekends, so for all of you that go to patio and beach, please help the Association in monitoring our guests during the week. We will also be having a patio supervisor who will be in charge of setting up the umbrellas and keeping the patio area clean. His name is Cameron Lyons,

please say hello to both, when you see them. If there are any questions or concerns about any of these items discussed or any other beach matters, please do not direct them to Chelsea or Cameron, instead contact me either by email or visiting me at GBP. You may email me at GBAZZ@COX.NET (please put as subject GBPA). If anyone has any ideas or would like to help with any programs, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to speaking with all of you in the months ahead.



**Beach Preservation Committee Report
By: Rick McGinley**

In our continuing efforts to build additional Groins, we have been dealing with Dr. Frank Bohlen, a Marine Biologist at UConn Avery Point campus. He said that he spoke to George Whisker, a Geologist at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the information that was requested by the DEP in order to process our application for new Groins. The amount of information that is required is extensive, it will include tests of the flow field, and assessment of effectiveness of structures to hold sand on the beach. It will probably take the rest of this year to get the report completed and will probably cost upwards of \$15,000.00. This is all verbal and we are anticipating a written estimate.

I called Michael Grzywinski, an Analyst at the DEP and our contact person, in an effort to verify that all this information is necessary, and to further bolster my opinion that we are going in the right direction, and that it will likely lead to getting permission to install the necessary Groins.

The answer that I received was in the affirmative.

Michael's opinion is that we are on the right track and had we not been as successful as we have at this point, we would probably be looking at a much more expensive project in the future.

In all 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.



**CT Coalition of Coastal Communities
Report
By Gerry Dyar**

C3 is preparing for the next legislative session. Check www.conncommcoalition.org for the latest information and meeting schedule.



**Council of Beaches Report
By Gerry Dyar**

At the June 6th meeting the COB formed a committee to petition the Westbrook Board of Selectmen to phase in the October, 2006 revaluation over a period of five years. This is based on a bill that was passed in the 2006 Legislative session. A lawyer who has a summer residence in one of the COB member associations is researching the technical details of this. The committee expects to start gathering signatures on the necessary petitions in

July. If this is approved it could save each of us 40% of the expected tax increase over the next five years. Please be prepared to sign the petition when it comes around so that the Board of Selectmen knows that we have enough residents behind this to force the issue to a Town Meeting/Referendum if they don't approve it.

To learn more about this issue go to www.westbrookcouncilofbeaches.org and look at the information under "Revaluation" on the Goals page.

The next meeting of the COB will be in the Multi Media Room at the Mulvey Municipal Center at 7:00pm on July 10th, 2006.



Nominating Committee By Helen Dyar

The Nominating Committee's slate of members for the Board of Governors for the year 2006-2007 was read at the Annual Meeting on May 27th, 2006. As there were no nominations from the floor Chairman Tony Zimmitti asked the clerk to cast one vote for the slate. The three members of the Board of Governors voted in are David Brault and Ken Penfield, both re-elected and Maureen Shanley as a new member. At the Board meeting following the Annual meeting the officers elected were Tony Zimmitti, Chairman; Gary Bazzano, Vice-Chair; David Brault, Treasurer and Al Dubois, Clerk. We WELCOME you to the Board of Governors, Maureen!



Unserviceable U.S.A. Flags By Jeanne Lovejoy

The fifth annual ceremony of burning our torn and tattered flags at GBPA was held on Friday June 16th. This is usually held around Flag Day, which is June 14th. We had a small group this year and ceremonially burned about 12 flags. Hopefully, we can remember to put the date in our calendars for our sixth annual ceremony, so we will have more people join us in this event.



Potpourri

Address Changes/Corrections!

The Board of Governors is trying to update GBPA's contact list. Please send notice of changes in or corrections to your mailing address to the attention of Petra Shearer at:

GBPA
P.O. Box 754
Westbrook, CT 06498

Would you be willing to receive your Newsletter via e-mail?

In an effort to conserve paper and cut printing/ mailing costs, GBPA will be offering delivery of the GBPA's monthly Newsletter via e-mail. This service will apply only to the Newsletter, and not to the Call of the Annual Meeting or other "official" mailings. Your e-mail address will not be distributed to any other organization or used for any other purpose than to deliver the Newsletter.

To sign up for e-mail delivery of the monthly Newsletter, please send an e-mail to Petra Shearer at enyala@juno.com.

Don't forget to include your name and mailing address so that we can remove you from the hard copy distribution list.

Three Cheers for Volunteers!

The Breakfast Committee will be meeting on July 23, 2006 at the Rossi's. Volunteers are still needed to make this year's Breakfast at the Beach run smoothly. To volunteer, please contact Susan DuBois at (860) 633-3285 or Gretchen Rossi at (860) 669-2681.

The tables and benches at the patio need to be painted. If you would be willing to volunteer your time to assist in this effort, please contact Tony Zimmitti for more information.



CORRECTION:

In the last Newsletter we reported MonoFlo's telephone number incorrectly.

MonoFlo's correct telephone number is (860) 399-9427.



Board of Governors Contact Information:

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**GBPA's Annual 4th of July
Breakfast**

**On the Beach
will be held on the Patio**

Saturday, July 1

from 9am to 10:30am

Admission: \$5

Children under 8: FREE

Rain date: Sunday, July 2, 2006