



March 2009

**A message from the Chairman of the
Board of Governors.
By Gary Bazzano**

First of all, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. With the exception of December, the Board has been meeting monthly working on items pertinent to GBPA. I would like dedicate this writing solely for the purpose, involving GBPA and the Town of Westbrook. I will give a brief history and then explain where GBPA stands today. Last year in February, the town and GBPA met to discuss the dredging of the Patchogue River. There, discussion ensued about the expense and the type of dredging that would take place. The Town believed that the standard way of dredging was the most cost effective and recommends dumping all spoils out at Cornfield Shoal. GBPA debated that issue and found it to be more cost effective to hydraulically dredge and dump the spoils on GBPA property. The DEP was also involved and preferred that the spoils be deposited on GBPA property.

The Harbor Commission along with our own Rick McGinley solicited a few dredging companies and found two that were willing to do the job at a reasonable price. The Town interviewed both and decided to take the lowest price. There was no bid process and the lowest price was taken. The town had to fund the dredger in order for him to show up and then disbursed payments before the project was completed. The dredger never finished the project and was dismissed after some time.

The Town hired another local dredger to finish the project using the standard method of a barge and shovel where the spoils would be dumped out at sea.

In July, Board members met with the Harbor Commission to discuss the outcome of the dredging project. At that time it was requested of GBPA to give a proposal to the Town. The Board submitted a request to the Westbrook Board of Selectman (BOS) offering two options that GBPA would entertain. In October, GBPA gave the Board of Selectman a final number of the expenses that GBPA incurred for this project. At this time is was up to the Board of Selectman to decide what if any reimbursement would be given to GBPA.

On December 4, 2009, the BOS voted unanimously to reimburse GBPA \$13,000. This was somewhat of an arbitrary number though Selectman Crawford stated that he thought the dollar amount was fair as it was 2/3 of what was asked for.

As of this writing, contrary to an article in the Harbor News, GBPA has neither rejected nor accepted the offer of \$13,000. This is where GBPA stands today. There has been some communication among the Town Attorney and a representative of GBPA. The BOG would appreciate any input on this topic.

**Beach Preservation
By Ken Penfield**

This will serve as my first report as the new guy managing the Beach Preservation project. I want to acknowledge Rick McGinley, the seasoned veteran for this project, and the outstanding work he has done for GBPA. Rick has had numerous accomplishments during the past 10 + years; specifically, obtaining approvals from the DEP for building/repairing new

groins and beach renourishment. His ongoing passion and dedication to the beach and relationships established with representatives at the DEP have proven to be a valuable asset to our Association.

We have and will continue to maintain relationships with the DEP and local government to find ways to maintain our beach.

I have been in discussions with Coastal Engineers from the Woods Hole Group of East Falmouth, MA. This group is involved in the Hammonasset Beach study, Silver Beach in Milford, Rocky Neck in Niantic and many others.

At the GBPA Board meeting on February 25th 2009, I presented the board with information regarding the Woods Hole Group and their assistance to GBPA with our concerns about the ongoing erosion at the beach and available options for mitigating the erosion. The discussions with Woods Hole will involve learning more about coastal processes impacting the region and if there are better ways to manage the beach or improve the longevity of a potential solution.

The potential scope of services from Woods Hole will be in a phased approach, with initial tasks geared toward developing details for future phases and to provide overall cost effectiveness.

Task 1: A Coastal Engineer from Woods Hole will conduct a Site Visit and make an Evaluation of Existing Conditions. "The purpose will be to evaluate the existing geologic conditions, assess the physical processes, identify the type and extent of wetland resources, inspect the existing coastal structures and their condition, evaluate sediment characteristics, evaluate the current erosion, assess the risk to infrastructure, discuss the history of the beach, and learn

more about the current beach usage and management practices." Woods Hole will make observations of the health of the natural beach system, signs of shoreline evolution, and the structure construction, condition, and performance.

The initial site visit and evaluation will be conducted with members of the board to discuss the desired goals for the beach and future phases, studies, and engineering work. The cost for Task 1 is \$1,180.00

Task 2: Upon completion of the site visit, Woods Hole will prepare a letter report describing their findings and recommended next steps. The recommendations will include details on the scope of services and costs of future phases. As part of the letter report, Woods Hole will review available site plans, previous permit applications, structure as-builts, FEMA storm surge/wave information, shoreline change information, and historical data, as available. Costs for the Letter Report are \$1,560.00

The intent with Phase 1 is to determine the most appropriate approach for the next phases of work so that an informed decision can be made as to how to proceed.

After my presentation to the board regarding the Woods Hole Group proposal, the board believed that this would be a more fiscally prudent step in managing the Beach Preservation project rather than paying \$25,000 as a lump sum for a one-time study. A motion was passed and approved by the board to move forward with Phase 1 at a total cost of \$2,740.00

In addition, Woods Hole Group may also be a source for the Council of Beaches, Town of Westbrook, Harbor Commission and/or other beaches within our community to use in combined efforts to solve the ongoing erosion problems.

If anyone has questions please feel free to email me - kpenfield@bcifinancial.com

You may also visit the Woods Hole web site – www.woodsholegroup.com for additional information on this company.

Potpourri

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In case you have not heard, Punxsuatawney Phil has seen his shadow, prognosticating six more weeks of winter. No way!

As I write, the sun is out, the temperature has risen considerably from the depths, and the beach looks simply magnificent. Is spring in the air? Of course. The groundhog is all wet.

Soon, Grove Beach Point will slide into summer mode, and resume all the activities summer affords, and that we all have come to enjoy.

Board of Governors

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At the patio, the flag will fly once more in all of its glory. Speaking of the flag, inexplicably, it is not allowed during the winter months.

Year round residents, believing after all to be first class citizens, wonder why.

Star and Stripes, unlike Phil, needs not to go into hibernation. Just something to ponder over.

- Submitted by Tony Zimmitti
February, 2009

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Yolanda Giuliano, longtime resident of GBPA passed away in January at the age of 90.

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