



September 2006

Compiled by Janet Dickey and Kelly Giuliano

late into the evening; a real social event. Even the rain did not dare interfere. Thanks go to Marion Scherer and her crew.

Correction: On the issue of Voting Privileges, the membership should be aware that it was the Board of Governors who approved and voted to adopt the voting rules, which were based on research conducted by Petra Shearer.

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

The Board of Governors has voted to call a Special Meeting to ask the membership for the authority for securing funds necessary to finance a study designed to determine the factors affecting the stability of our beach. Professor W. Frank Bohlen, from the University of Connecticut Marine Science Department will conduct the study. **The Special Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 8, 2006 at 1:30pm on the Patio.** Please make every effort to attend, it is a very important issue. The proper Call will be sent out later this month. More on this topic in this Newsletter.

Not much to report on the traffic issue. The Police Advisory/Traffic Board did not meet last month, but will in September, and I plan to attend. More on this to come. Please drive carefully.

This year the Bike Parade was certainly inspiring. There were more kids than ever, and the originality of some of the decorations was truly brilliant. Both kids and grownups had lots of fun. Thanks go to Gary Bazzano and his crew. And what about the Pot Luck Supper, what an event! Wonderful and delicious food, great music, and dancing, too. The festivities extended



Beach Preservation Committee By Rick McGinley

As you will see from the Chairman's Report, there will be a **Special Meeting held on October 8, 2006 at 1:30 on the Patio** to discuss the next steps in our efforts to preserve a sandy bathing beach at Grove Beach Point. Before

DID YOU KNOW??
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discussing the details of this study, I would like to provide you with a brief summary of our

actions to date so that you will appreciate why we are being asked to complete this study, and why the Board of Governors feels as though this is the appropriate time to complete it.

Years ago, eight groins were constructed on the beach to prevent erosion of the beach. Over time the groins deteriorated, many to near non-existence, and the beach began to lose sand. We applied to the DEP to rebuild all eight groins on the beach, were given permission to rebuild three, and were asked to remove the remains of the other five. We rebuilt

three but did not remove the remains of the five because we wanted to retain whatever benefit they provided. Knowing that without repairing/replacing the other groins the beach would continue to lose sand, GBPA persisted in its application for the other five groins. The DEP informed GBPA that if we continued to apply for groins, they would issue an intent to deny. However, if we nourished the beach prior to our application, the DEP would fast track it. We nourished the beach from an onshore source as the obvious offshore source was 'unacceptable' to the DEP.

In November of 2005, officials from the DEP came out to see the results of the beach nourishment and noted that the beach continued to erode. Further details of this meeting were reported in the November/December issue of the Newsletter. At that time, the DEP asked us to provide them with more information to support the theory that rebuilding or replacing the groins on the beach would significantly reduce beach erosion. Specifically, they requested a study of the wave and current actions effecting the beach so that they could justify the type and placement of structures on the beach. The DEP wants to be very sure that any structures built on the beach are built and placed optimally for the performance of the beach. This is the GBPA's goal as well.

Since the time that we were informed that a beach study would be the necessary next step in the approval process, we have sought out individuals and entities with the credentials and capacity to conduct the requested study. We have received a written estimate from Dr. Frank Bohlen, a Professor of Marine Sciences at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. The cost of this study is not to exceed Twenty One Thousand Dollars and the stated objectives of this study will be to: (1) Quantitatively define the factors affecting the erosion of Grove Beach sufficient to

establish a basis for the specification of optimum erosion control measures; and (2) using study results, provide recommendations regarding the optimum means for the long-term stabilization of the sandy bathing beach shorefront contours of Grove Beach Point.

Please understand the purpose of this study. This study should tell us why the beach is eroding, and what structures, if any, will abate the erosion. If the study concludes that rebuilding the groins will not stop the erosion, we will know that spending money to do so is useless and that we must find an alternate means of securing a sandy bathing beach. If, however, the study concludes that rebuilding certain groins on the beach will stop erosion, the DEP has indicated that because of past permits, it will be relatively easy to get the necessary permission to do so.

Remember, the goal of all of our efforts in this area is to realize a stable, sandy bathing beach for GBPA.

Please attend the Special Meeting on October 8, 2006 and read the Newsletters to keep posted on our progress.



**Beach Committee Report
By Gary Bazzano**

Well, another season has past and everything went well. Even after a stormy Labor Day weekend.

The Beach Committee will be busy this winter season preparing to purchase new benches and umbrellas for next summer. We will continue to look at other

areas that might need improvements, so if anyone sees anything that needs fixing or replacing, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Please remember that if you purchased a caution sign, it is your responsibility to take it down and hang it seasonally.

The Beach Committee still has available the embroidered logo shirts. These shirts are available in the following styles: polo, sweat, youth sweat, and t-shirt. They come in many sizes and colors. Please contact me if you would like to order some. They are all made to order so there are no extras on hand.

The Bike Parade was a big hit this year with over 50 participants and Daisy Coupons given to all participants.

The "Movies on the Beach" were a great success again this year in spite of the weather. We had only three showings due to weather, but the attendance was still quite high. We look forward to another blockbuster movie summer. Once again, I would like to thank Dan Carter and Gary Kozlowski, without them, this wouldn't have been possible. Their kindness and ambition to get something done has created a lot of smiling faces on Friday nights in August. Hope to see you all next summer when we will continue this activity. **To the adults that think this is only for kids: try it out next year.**

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in all the events and projects this summer. I would need another page to list all of you, but you know who you are, and I hope everyone else knows, too. Again folks, it is these people that make things happen at GBPA, **without all of them, GBPA would just be another association.**

I wish everyone a happy fall and promise to keep all members informed on any beach committee activities that are forthcoming.



Council of Beaches Report By Gerry Dyar

About 30 members of the COB attended the BOS meeting Thursday, 9/7/06 at Mulvey to support the presentation of our petition to phase in the results of the current revaluation. It turned in to sort of a cliff hanger. I discovered Wednesday that in spite of written assurance from the First Selectman's office that we'd be on the agenda we weren't put on it. At the start of the meeting Tony Palermo made sure we were added to the agenda as item number 14, which would have meant we'd be there all night. During a break at the beginning of the meeting I was able to discuss the situation with John Raffa and he agreed to make us the next item on the agenda and also apologized for the mix up. We presented our petitions which included 324 names and John Raffa said he personally supported the issue and would get back to us on it.



Connecticut Communities Coalition Report By Gerry Dyar

There was a special Directors Meeting of C3 in Old Lyme on Monday, July 31, 2006 to meet with our lobbyist Anita Schepker. The purpose of this meeting

was to work out our strategy for the 2007 Legislative session to get our property valuation freeze bill passed. A number of projects are in the works as a result of this meeting and the results of these will be reflected on our web site during the month of August. We appreciate your past support and hope you will continue to support C3 by renewing your membership as it comes due. If you haven't joined C3 yet go to our web site at www.conncommcoalition.org to do so.



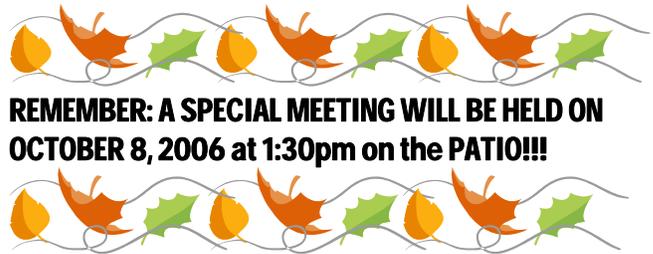
Potpourri

Pot Luck Supper By Marion Scherer

I would like to thank all those who participated in making the 10th Annual Pot Luck Supper such a success. Over 140 attendees enjoyed dozens of appetizers, entrees, and desserts.

Please Pick Up After Your Dog! By Kelly Giuliano

Attention dog owners! Over the past several weeks, I have had a great deal of e-mail from neighbors annoyed with cleaning up after other people's dogs. Pet waste can contain some pretty nasty bacteria, and can threaten the health of humans, especially children. *If you have a dog, please be considerate and clean up after it!*



**REMEMBER: A SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 8, 2006 at 1:30pm on the PATIO!!!**

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The next **Board of Governors Meeting** will be held on
September 20, 2006 at 6:30pm at the Zimmitti's.

A
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