



Grove Beach Point Association, Inc. Fall 2010 Newsletter

A Message from the Chairman of the Board of Governors Gary Bazzano

As I write this, it is hard to believe that 90 degree days were not far from today. As I look out my window, it is rainy and raw. Certainly not the weather we all like. As a true optimist; we are only 8 months away from Memorial Day!!

I would like to recap all that has been going on in the past by the Board. As you may have noticed, the Board has been communicating via email more often and has decided to send two printed mailed newsletters out each year. We really want everyone who is capable of getting email or the internet to subscribe to the Board in order for the Board to communicate in a more timely and efficient manner. So many news releases went out this summer, that it would have been impossible to relay the information in a timely manner if it were sent by postal mail. The cost of a stamp is going up soon so that is even more of a reason to subscribe to email with the board.

The Annual meeting went very well as we voted to have a study done on beach erosion. Ken will explain about that in this newsletter. We also discussed and voted in the budget on a new retaining wall and fence and gate for the patio area. This item was in the budget, but the Board is still looking into designs and landscaping for the surrounding area. I would like to thank John Rossi for all his time he has dedicated to the fence project. The Annual Meeting was well attended and it was great to hear the comments expressed at the meeting regarding all aspects of GBPA. Please do your best to attend the Annual Meeting, for it is one of the only times we all get together to discuss the important issues that we have at GBPA. Might I add that we also lowered your mill rate this year. The Board understood the hardships some are facing and thought that it would be proper to try and lower the taxes without lowering services. Fortunately, we were able to do that. It wasn't much but it is certainly better than raising taxes.

This summer, the Association had its usual events such as the bike parade, pot luck social and 4th of July breakfast. The breakfast was one of the

largest attended in years and it was a beautiful day. Great job by Lisa Brault for organizing the event and we look forward to Lisa chairing the event next year. Unfortunately, I could not enjoy the day as I had to leave early for a wedding. I hope the rest of you enjoyed it. We also brought back the "movies on the beach". I would like to thank Terri Burr and Nancy Waters for doing this. Once again, it was a big hit and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank some of the people that continue to keep the grounds of GBPA looking so nice and neat. The Vibbert's for keeping the turnaround so nicely landscaped, the Dimartino's for keeping the area behind the turnaround neat and landscaped. Barbara Peet for her work at the patio on the flowers, the Lombardi's for their work on Bassett Park and thanks to Clarke Bassett for faithfully cutting the grass at the gazebo boat dock area. GBPA is a better place with members such as these giving of their time to help reduce costs to the Association. For some of you who don't know where Bassett Park is, it is located on Menunketesuck Road at the split heading towards Route 1. Thanks to everyone who helps in some way to keep GBPA the great Association it is. It is truly a compliment when the police officers tell you that if they had a choice, GBPA would be where they would like to live in a beach community in Westbrook. We should all be very proud to be members of GBPA.

The Board has purchased new stone for the turnaround, and new signs for the parking lot and patio.

I have been reading through the minutes of the Association starting in 1945. It seems that the two major issues of the nineteen forties are still the same two major issues more than sixty years later; roaming dogs and security. In the forties it was oysterman coming in and trespassing over private property to get to the point. Today, we are faced with fisherman doing the same. The dog issue hasn't changed. We must respect our neighbors and as such, control our pets. Dogs should be on a leash and not allowed to roam freely around the Association. We will also be looking into more security measures for the coming year. We are debating on hiring security as we have done in the past but we are hoping the security measures taken at the patio and parking lot will deter some of the activity that goes on in the evening.

The Town has installed a Handicap Parking sign at the southerly end of Menunketesuck Rd. This was done at the request of a GBPA homeowner and with the support of the Board. It is one spot, not the whole road. I have heard from a few of you regarding this spot and wanted to clarify that it is for one spot only and is open to any person displaying a valid handicap parking permit.

Our website has come a long way thanks to Nancy Waters. She has done a great job developing and updating it and she is also the one who sends out those email blasts. Once again, that is why we need your email address.

The following is a detailed explanation of the security and safety measures that plan to be implemented at the patio with regards to the fence. There seems to be a few questions as to why we need it? How tall is it going to be? What will it be made of? How will we get in? Etc. As I stated earlier, in sixty years of this Association, the most important issue is still security. The board believes that the only way to handle this at the beach is by installing an ornamental fence on top of a small wall which will extend from the eastern part of the property to the western end. There will be a gate at the patio entrance which will swing open and closed upon entering. The Board is still debating on a locking mechanism for the gate like the one at Grove Beach Terrace. Aside from hiring a full time police officer or full time security, this seems to be the best measure for security. One of our major problems at GBPA, is that unlike the other associations, we have parking on the street. This allows anyone to come onto our public roads and park and use our beach. Our beach guard is only hired for a limited amount of hours and that guard only works during the day. We have problems at night also. The height of the aluminum black fence will be 42" on top of a two foot stone wall. The railroad tie wall that is there now is approximately 12'-18" tall. The fence will be mounted on top of the stone wall and will be separated by 18" stone columns between fence sections. There will be approximately 5 stone columns. In keeping with the patio motif, the columns and wall will match the patio wall. This will allow us to keep the character of GBPA and also address our security issues. Do we need the fence? Many members that use the patio and beach have witnessed non members entering the beach and some have witnessed such extremes as non members changing into bathing suits on the beach. Non members have also brought in many coolers and drinks. This might happen on days when the state's public beaches are at capacity and GBPA gets the residuals of those closings. Our members spend thousands dollars in taxes in order to have a safe and secure environment at GBPA and while most of the non members do not create any harm, there are some that do. Therefore the Board has decided to make security a top priority and as such, is moving forward with the security project. The Board and members are hoping that this fence along with signage will deter non members from entering the patio area. Another reason for the fence is safety among children playing in the volleyball and basketball area. There are too many times when a ball rolls into the street and a child runs out after it. With the traffic created on Old Mail Trail, the Board believes it to be a good idea to construct a barrier, so balls and children may not go into the road as easily. The Board is trying to complete a diagram of what the fence will look like and will be asking for input from the membership. In summary, the two main reasons for the fence and gate are for security and safety; A top priority for over 60 years at GBPA. Hopefully this will alleviate some of the problems of the past 60 years.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletters. Please look for the email updates coming to you throughout the winter. There will not be another printed mailed newsletter until early spring. That will come out in time for the new rubbish schedule and rubbish rate sheet. Please be sure we have your

email address and please don't hesitate to contact any Board member about any concerns or questions you may have.

**Beach Preservation
Ken Penfield**

Our study with The Woods Hole group is moving forward. The report is in its initial stages and Woods Hole is finishing up the shoreline change analysis task which should be made available to me sometime next week.

The wave modeling analysis is now in full simulation mode and as soon as that is done they will be starting on the sediment transport modeling.

At this point I'd say we are about 40-50% complete right now and I will provide an update with more detail in our next Newsletter.

In the mean time should you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

**Changes to the Newsletter
Kelly Giuliano**

At the Annual Meeting, several Members expressed reluctance to receive their Newsletter by e-mail because the Newsletter was not distributed on a regular schedule. In response, the Board has decided to set a schedule for distribution. The Newsletter will now be distributed twice per year: in **October and April**.

For those Members who just can't get enough of all things GBPA and for whom two Newsletters per year just isn't enough, please know that our webmaster, Nancy Waters, will continuously update the website with community information. In addition, Nancy will periodically send out e-mails to alert members when significant updates are made.

SO WHAT'S WITH THIS ORANGE CARD??? In order receive e-mails from GBPA, we need your current e-mail address!!! If you are currently receiving this Newsletter by regular mail, we ask you to complete the enclosed card and provide us with your e-mail address.

**Treasurer's Financial Update through October 12, 2010
Dave Brault**

So far this year our membership has been very diligent in paying their taxes on time. In addition, Petra was very successful at collecting most of the past due

taxes from prior years. On the expense side, we are doing just fine and don't anticipate any large variances from the budget presented at the annual meeting.

Please email me at brault.david@gmail.com or call 860-964-0472 if you have any questions.

	Actual 2010 - 2011	Budget 2010 - 2011	Variance
Beach Operations			
Tax Revenue	<u>\$ 33,409.87</u>	<u>\$ 34,500.00</u>	<u>\$ (1,090.13)</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 23,500.26	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 22,999.74
Net	<u><u>\$ 9,909.61</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (12,000.00)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 21,909.61</u></u>
Beach Preservation			
Tax Revenue	<u>\$ 17,335.80</u>	<u>\$ 18,100.00</u>	<u>\$ (764.20)</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 8,735.00	\$ 30,200.00	\$ 21,465.00
Net	<u><u>\$ 8,600.80</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (12,100.00)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 20,700.80</u></u>
Long-term Capital Fund			
Tax Revenue	\$ 6,934.32	\$ 7,200.00	\$ (265.68)
Total Expenses			\$ -
Net	<u><u>\$ 6,934.32</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,200.00</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (265.68)</u></u>

Changes to the Garbage Schedule

GARBAGE COLLECTION DAY WILL CHANGE FROM MONDAY PICK UP TO FRIDAY PICK UP SOON! THE FIRST FRIDAY PICKUP WILL BE ON **NOVEMBER 5, 2010.**

**Council of Beaches
Nancy Waters**

The Council of Beaches has wrapped up their 2010 meeting schedule.

Vision Appraisal has signed a contract with the Town of Westbrook for the property reevaluation process. Their website is www.visionappraisal.com. Their reevaluation process will determine Westbrook property market values in 2011 and they will be processing the coastal properties in the spring. The Westbrook Council of Beaches is working with Vision Appraisal such that there will be a town meeting in the spring for property owners to meet with Vision Appraisal to discuss any concerns. When this date is set in the spring, it will be published on the GBPA website.

Social/Movies on the Beach Committee

Movies on the Beach for 2010 was highly successful and we are looking forward to 2011 and welcome your ideas. So while you are watching movies over the winter or if something new comes out, please drop a line to nancy240@comcast.net with your thoughts on what movies we can put on the list for 2011.

Additionally, we have an interesting idea for an event in 2011. Anyone up for CHRISTMAS in JULY?! While we are still working through some ideas on this, the premise is that since, for the most part, association members don't see everyone during the Holiday season, so why not hold our own celebration in the summer? We are thinking of taking one weekend at the end of July/early August to decorate with beach with Holiday lights, a tree, play Christmas music and in the evening, play some classic favorite films like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".

For now, as you are trimming your home for the holiday season, as you come across an ornament that u would like to donate to our cause – OR – an ornament for the "Ugliest/Tackiest" ornament contest that we will have; simply set it aside until next summer. If you have any other ideas, please send a note to a line to me at nancy240@comcast.net.

Website News

Over the next few months, Nancy Waters will archive our current Website page and start a fresh one, along with some updates. As always, please keep an eye in your email inbox for news and information!



I'M LOST AND MY FAMILY MISSES ME!!!

**Darylle Connelly's Pug is still LOST.
We know someone picked him up.
\$1,000.00 REWARD
(203)887-7172.**

Have You Seen GBPA's "RULES" Sign?

We are still trying to locate the large RULES sign left on the patio the morning of the breakfast. No questions asked, please just return. Please contact a Board Member with information.

WHERE WERE YOU IN JUNE 1964?

As part of an effort to further organize GBPA's records, several Board members have been picking through the archives. The following is a reprinting of a letter issued to the Membership in June 1964:

"1. The beach parking lot hours are from 9AM to 8PM. The lot will be locked during the hours of 8 PM to 9 AM. The Association has the right to order towed away any unauthorized vehicles using this lot. It is reserved for members of the Association and their guests.

"2. Parent of children who are found destroying or breaking any property of the Association (Shuffle board sets, chairs, tables, umbrellas, raft or other items) will be held responsible for the cost or repair or replacement of these items. Our constable has been instructed to strictly enforce this rule."

"One further item of extreme importance is being called to the members attention at the specific request of the members who attended the annual meeting. Our beach area are for the enjoyment of all members, but some of our young people are abusing this privilege during night time hours to the annoyance of those residents in the immediate areas.

PARENTS!!

"Midnight or later is not time for teenagers to be allowed to roam the streets of the Association or to gather at the beach. You all have homes in which you can entertain your sons and daughters and their friends. They are not entertaining to your neighbors and friends who may have retired or whose smaller children may be sleeping.

"Common courtesy calls for all of us to consider the rights of others. We live during these vacation months in a small community designed to provide a pleasant spot for all.

"Please do not permit a few young people to spoil the vacation for others.

"Reasonable rule by parents will prevent restrictions being imposed on the activities of all.

"Have a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

The Board of Governors
June 1964"

Excerpts from the GBPA Charter

Did you know that the charter is available on the website? Check out the full charter at www.grovebeachpoint.org!

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
An Act Incorporating
THE GROVE BEACH POINT ASSOCIATION
During General Assembly Session January 1945
Approved May 11, 1945
Amended by an ACT approved June 9, 1947
Amended August 30, 2003
Amended by an ACT approved _____

SEC. 1 All owners of cottages and dwellings or other real estate specifically located within the limits herein-after specified in the locality know as Grove Beach Point, Grove Beach, in the Town of Westbrook, are constituted a body politic and corporate by the Name of THE GROVE BEACH POINT ASSOCIATION.

SEC. 2 The limits and territory of said association are defined and established as follows: Northerly by the southerly side of the Boston Post Road; Easterly by the Menunketesuck River; southerly by Long Island Sound; and westerly by Grove Beach Terrace, or however otherwise bounded and described by a map of Grove Beach Point dated October 15, 1927, designated as number 26 and on file in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Westbrook. The Limits and territory of said Association may be extended at any time upon written application of the owner or owners of other lots or adjoining property, provided such application shall have the approval of a majority of the members present at any annual or special meeting warned for that purpose, and thereupon such land shall be incorporated within the limits and territory of said Association, and the owner or owners thereof shall be a part of said body politic and incorporate.

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