

**Point O'Woods Beach Association  
Board Meeting  
November 17, 2006 @ 7:30 p.m.  
Daigle & Son  
Farmington, CT**

Meeting called to order by President George Mrosek at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Bruce Daigle, Michelle Daly, Beth Kelly, George Mrosek, Laura Nalesnik, Fred Pinto, Harry Ritson, Mark Stankiewicz,

**Absent:** Dennis Bosio, Julie Davis

**Michelle Daly** will act as secretary for this meeting.

**Citizen Speak:**

**Jim Kerley** made a presentation regarding the friendship bench in honor of his wife. He addressed the concerns regarding the bench. He also was the spokesperson for the donors of the bench. He provided reasons why they believe the bench is an asset to the beach community. He offered a compromise to the location of the bench. He suggested locations near the tennis courts, front gate, and playground. He asked the board to honor the wishes of the donors and to respect the decision of the 2005 board to allow the bench, and to allow a community wide vote regarding recognition/memorials at the annual meeting. He also suggested that a committee be formed regarding recognition/memorials and that he would like to be on that committee. He submitted the document that he read and asked that it be part of the minutes. **Al Debrowski, Peter Aldridge, Bill Thompson, Lorraine Gibson, and Peg Hurley** all spoke to endorse Jim's proposal and the bench memorial. **Peg Hurley** asked the board not to move the bench until after the annual meeting. **Bill Doherty** spoke in opposition to the location of the bench and asked if the board knew that it would be made of granite. He also said if this bench was allowed to stay, he would be submitting an application to the board for a memorial for his wife and all costs would be covered by him.

**Bill Thompson** spoke about the WPCA meeting. He said he was pleased with the update, but not pleased that there seemed to be open issues and a drive that we should not do it. He had an uncomfortable feeling that it was not fully supported and did not want to lose momentum or have delays. He wants to see commitment from the board and asked if the board would offer their stance on the project. George Mrosek responded that, as he mentioned to Bill Thompson previously, he considers supporting the position of the WPCA as "law" because it was already voted on.

**Women's Club:** Absent

**Correspondence:**

**Peter Aldridge, Lorraine Gibson, Bill Thompson, Carol Sirkin, Scott Stanton, Dick Hrinak** all sent emails in support of the friendship bench. **Bill Thompson's** email also commented on the WPCA/sewer project.

**Change of Agenda:**

**George Mrosek** made a motion to change the agenda to move "Old Business" (memorial bench) as a point of discussion for the convenience of the citizens present. **Harry Ritson** confirmed, **Mark Stankiewicz** second, all were in favor.

**Old Business:**

**Memorial Bench:** **Jim Kerley** asked if the citizens would be able to participate in this discussion. **George Mrosek** agreed that we would try it.

In reply to charges made by Jim Kerley that the board did not provide reasons for its concern about the memorial bench, **George Mrosek** read an email he had sent to all board members, including Beth Kelly, on Sept. 18, which described the concerns with the memorial. In regard to a meeting, George Mrosek read an email dated Sept. 25 sent to all board members asking Beth Kelly to contact Jim Kerley and whoever else contributed as he did not know who they were, to see if they would like to meet to explain the board's position. George Mrosek also referred to **Attorney Mattern's** email of Oct. 17, where he wrote:

*"I listened to the tape this morning. Dick Hrinak clearly states it is to be a granite bench. He indicated it would replace another deteriorating bench at the berm on the beach. That is about all that is said about this specific bench. There is discussion about the propriety of doing this and where does POW draw the line as people pass away. The only motion*

*discussed is to contribute the sum of 100 dollars to the memorial cost.*

*The bottom line on all this in my opinion is that POW still can decide where to locate or relocate this bench. The Board has the ultimate decision regarding any use of its properties. If the Board feels that the bench should be relocated, it has the legal power to do so."*

**Jack Gibson** pointed out that the bench is on the berm, not the beach. Discussion ensued.

**Bruce Daigle** said he didn't recall anything being installed on POW property in the past without final approval. Also, he didn't recall the board giving approval for a bench with engraving.

**Laura Nalesnik** objected to the return of her family's personal donation for the bench from Jim Kerley and refuted his assertion made that her position regarding the bench indicated it was not in keeping with the intent of the friendship bench. She felt that as a personal donor, the one who encouraged the board to make a donation and by supplying additional donor names she was clearly not anti-bench. However, the issue required her as a board member to be objective and to serve the community at large. She also pointed out that she was not the only donor who was disappointed in the changes made to the bench.

**Beth Kelly** said it was always a granite bench. Harry Ritson and Laura Nalesnik provided photos of granite benches with backs and said this is what the old board expected, along with a plaque -- not engraving.

**Harry Ritson** offered that the bench be moved to one of the right of ways (ROW) as we need to do work on them for safety reasons and may turn them into a scenic view. **Harry Ritson** will show **Jim Kerley** the ROWs. **Jim**

**Kerley** recommended that the bench be moved to the tennis area. He is willing to explore modifying the engraved words and adding a plaque. He will participate in a committee and will respect the decision of the committee. It was decided that the bench would remain where it is so that the committee would be able to see it prior to committee deliberations. The Long Range Planning (LRP) is charged with forming a study group to recommend current/future policy regarding memorials and recognition. This will be an agenda item for the annual meeting for the community to decide.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Discussion regarding turn around time, how to make corrections, how to obtain a finalized version (email?) occurred. **Laura Nalesnik** said she would discuss these issues with Julie to find out what is the best solution. After noting corrections to last meeting's minutes, a motion was made by **Michelle Daly** to approve the minutes of the last meeting with corrections. This was seconded by **Harry Ritson** and all were in favor.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Budget and financial statements were distributed by **George Mrosek**. **Bruce Daigle** asked if we could redistribute the money saved on insurance back to the cost centers that had to make cuts to fit the annual budget because there are things that need to be done, but there is not enough money. He also asked how we pay for things that haven't been budgeted for (i.e. ROW need to be addressed due to safety). **Michelle Daly** asked if we could use money from the "rainy day fund" for such issues. **Harry Ritson** asked if we were going to fund depreciation costs. **George Mrosek** said we did not have to do this. It was suggested that we may be able to use those monies. **Bruce Daigle** reminded the board that the 2005 board approved to pay half of Jeff Kiesh's insurance but to date that has not been done. **George Mrosek** said he asked Bruce to mention this so the board could vote to finalize it. If Jeff got sick, George felt this could become a legal issue if he doesn't have his anticipated coverage. A motion was made, duly seconded and voted unanimously. **Bruce Daigle** will also look into direct deposit for POW employees. **Michelle Daly** requested tax forms for the people covering the New Year's Day closure.

#### **Beach:**

No Report

#### **Boat Basin:**

**Harry Ritson** reported that the boat basin received 25% of the slip rentals to date, one person is leaving, and the wait list has decreased. The steps will be fixed.

#### **Grounds:**

Current projects include winterization and leaf removal. **Bruce Daigle** reported that the middle size building will be heated and insulated. This is already in the budget. Prices for propane have been obtained. Research for electric heaters is ongoing.

#### **Communication:**

**Laura Nalesik** showed the board the website. All agreed that there is a major improvement and were pleased with the progress. She will check with the attorney regarding the use of photos and finalize the design, as discussed with the board, with the developer. She is still waiting for info from REC and WPCA.

**Ordinance:**

**Laura Nalesnik** is continuing to follow up on septic issues, complaints and violations.

**Recreation:**

Beth Kelly said the tennis courts need to be decided upon, but no further information regarding renovation vs. reconstruction was provided.

**Roads:**

Old Lyme has been informed that **Fred Pinto** is the contact for the street lights.

**Security:**

**Michelle Daly** asked to provide a gift basket (\$50) to the resident state police in Old Lyme and a \$150 donation to the volunteer ambulance. Motion was made by **Michelle Daly**, seconded by **Harry Ritson**, all in favor. Our insurance company confirmed that we are covered for liability should we purchase a defibrillator. The watchmen for New Year's Day have been appointed and tax forms requested.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40am

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Daly