

**Walnut Beach Association
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2021 Firehouse Gallery**

All Officers in Attendance

Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

A Sign-up sheet was passed around the tables to also update e-mail information.

President's Report – Wendy Terenzio

We are getting many new members and we welcome them! Several were in attendance.

Volunteers are what make WBA able to do the events such as concerts, corn hole, festival, etc. PLEASE volunteer to do something to help us maintain our great events.

The lease agreement between WBA/Beach Shore Village is set to expire sometime in 2023. There is a 25 year lease option available after, which we need to pursue. One of our new members from Beach Shore Village will look into the agreement and get back to us.

Third Thursday Art Stroll begins Thursday with a Country theme, live entertainment at the Firehouse Gallery from 6-8 (following Farmers' Market from 4-7) and DJ Brian Smith at the Arch from 8-9:30. More info in later report.

We need Chairs for several committees: Website, Sponsorships, Block Watch and Government. Anyone wishing to help us out on any of these can contact a board member or attend our meeting to volunteer.

WBA's first scholarship to a Jonathan Law senior has been named. Check will be mailed shortly. The recipient was decided for his community activism, one of our criteria for the award.

Vice President's Report – Robin Mihalick (nothing at this time)

Financial Report - Elana Zabari

Operating (Main Account: 6,847.33

Concert Series Account: \$11,237.06

Festival Account: \$4,697.24

TOTAL: \$22,781.63

Secretary's Report – Kim Thompson

May meeting minutes were e-mailed and passed around tonight's meeting. Motion to accept minutes without changes passed unanimously.

Membership Report – Pam Parisi (not present)

111 members currently; we are getting a lot of new members which is excellent!!!

Committee Reports

Blockwatch (no representation)

Cornhole Tournament (Erik Johnson)

Saturday, July 17th at the Devon Rotary Pavilion, Walnut Beach, bags fly at 10 a.m.

Smaller this year ... 32 teams instead of 64. Prize money will not be cash but gift certificates to area businesses in the hopes of drawing our community rather than "ringers" to play more competitively. We want to make this a friendlier event for our community and also help our local struggling businesses. No alcohol will be available, no swag bags, just a good day on the beach having fun with friendly corn hole competition and our lovely beach. Free

admission, hours are 10 to whenever it ends. We need many volunteers to make this fun day happen. We are asking for help during the tournament and help to break down after the event, two shifts 8 to noon and noon to close.

Music (Donna Travis)

We will have the first Art Stroll (Third Thursday) this coming Thursday, June 17th at Firehouse Gallery. Food truck and live music from 6-8, and DJ Brian Smith at the Arch from 8-9:30. This all follows the Farmers' Market from 4-7 at the Pavilion. We have so much here to see and do on Thursdays in Walnut Beach. All info can be found on Facebook on WBA's page and other pages pertaining to Milford.

Make Music Day is Monday, June 21st ... there will be live music at the Firehouse Gallery from 6-8.

Walnut Beach Arts and Business Association

Farmers' Market will be weekly on Thursdays from 4-7 at the Pavilion. The first one was a huge success. There will be more as the season progresses but there are food trucks, produce, live music, great vendors and themes every week.

Fairy Frolic is Monday, June 21st from 6-8 at the Business District (Naugatuck lower) with the street closed at Broadway and at Monroe for the event. Bring your little fairies for a wonder time. Artfish42 has Fairy gear for sale. This is always a magical night for our little ones! And quite a few big ones, too.

Walnut Beach Festival (Kim Thompson)

Applications are being received. Changes are being made to accommodate the Health Dept.'s regulations and to keep the cost reasonable. Date is Sunday, Sept. 12th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hope is to get at least 40 vendors. Many have verbally committed and just need to complete paperwork. Nine are committed and paid to date.

Volunteers are welcome! Contact Kim at 203-556-1894 and leave message if interested.

Concert Series (Wendy Terenzio)

Starts Saturday, July 3rd from 4-7 p.m. with a special 4th of July concert from 6:30 to 9:30. and then every Sunday thereafter from 4-7 p.m. until September 5th. Watch for info on Facebook, on our website and in the Mermaid Booklets. As always, we need volunteers for all our dates!

Concert Series Fundraiser

This year we will have it outside under at the Pavilion on Walnut Beach. Date is Saturday, August 28th from 2-6 p.m. with "Mixed Nuts" featuring our own Donna Travis. Barbecue sit-down dinner will be catered by Lasse's. **THIS IS OUR MAIN FUNDRAISER FOR THE FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SO PLEASE BUY TICKETS OR DONATE SO WE CAN MAINTAIN THIS WONDERFUL EVENT.** We cannot offer alcoholic beverages due to the rules and regulations of the beach. More info will be forthcoming.

Beautification (Melissa Wasik)

Nancy Burke donated several plants which need to go in the ground. Anyone is available to volunteer to do that is encouraged. Also, bring down a watering can or bucket and just water some of the plants if you get a chance. We are experiencing some drier weather and don't want to lose them.

Government (nothing at this time)

Wendy asked for a volunteer to monitor or attend the municipal meetings, especially the Aldermen's meeting and report back the changes/laws/regulations that directly affect Walnut Beach. We were blind sighted this year by parking changes which were voted on last year but not implemented due to COVID. Now we are scrambling to accommodate our events/activities with the new parking regulations in place ... not easy. Simon McDonald volunteered to chair. It was hoped that Geoff Viscount (not present) might help out as a committee member.

Website

We desperately need someone who can devote some time to updating our website. It is powered by WordPress. If you can, or know someone who can, please contact a board member. One of our new members, Amber, has someone in mind, and will be sending the info if that person is willing and able. All considerations for the position are welcome!

Old Business (Nothing at this time)

New Business

A member had an issue outside her home with many underage kids drinking and being loud. Police were called, responded very quickly and accordingly to the member “they scattered like cockroaches.” We are grateful and fortunate to have MPD so close by when they are needed. It also would be exactly the kind of incident that a Blockwatch chairperson would help with. These types of incidents can be reported, monitored and info used to nuisance/criminal behavior for police.

We need a Social Media Manager who can work with miscellaneous media ... NextDoor, Alignable, Instagram, etc. We may have a member who is willing and able.

Next meeting will be Monday, July 12th at the Firehouse Gallery. Motion to adjourn made, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim S. Thompson
Secretary
Walnut Beach Association