Walnut Beach Association

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 14, 2025

Firehouse Gallery

Officer in Attendance: Gean Brown, Mary Hagerty, Mary Callahan

Called to Order at 7:05

President's Report – Gean Brown

Simon is running Lobster roll festival for the Chamber. WBA will have Table to sell merchandise, and askedfor volunteers for the event. Sign up sheet was available. Contact the association if you want to volunteer

A request for $2500 for T-shirts to sell was made. Vote was taken. Purchase for shirts was approved

Financial Report – Mary Hagerty

_____**Balance as of:__7/1/20225_____Amt:___9885.02_____**

Previous Balance as of:_____6/1/25_____Amt:____9827.44_____

Petty Cash: $150

Expenses: Insurance $155. Rent of $600

Liability insurance is being renewed in January

Income: 4 new members

Secretary's Report –

Motion to accept the minutes: accepted

Membership Report

paid members = _79___

Committee Reports

Beautification & Blight

Park, and window boxes on Broadway and Naugatuck have been maintained by volunteers. People help weed and water and trim.

Requests for:

- more garbage cans along the streets
- doggie pick-up bag stations
- more grabbers to replenish McKenzie's clean up area at the beach

Beach Clean Up July 26. Simon should send a reminder

Stow Barn

No report

Events and Fundraising T-Shirts at music and lobster roll festival.

2132 is the PO BOX for people to mail checks

Scholarship:

$500 from environmental sign project will be transferred to scholarship fund for the next winner of the environmental scholarship award

All of this year's scholarship awards have been received

Environmental/Beach

Next beach clean up July 26

Preservation Trust

No report

Government –

Nothing to report

Website

Is up to date

Walnut Beach Business Association –

No report

Guest Speaker : Rich Smith, mayoral candidate

Fence around the pavilion could come down.

Some issues bought up by members:

- Air B and B: Laurel beach passed a rule to prohibit, but it's not easy to enforce. Rich suggested register Air BnB's.
- Beach erosion
- Car stolen from Monroe street. Deploying license plate reader for stolen cars.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS Rich discussed during his time as mayor

Redesigned mall for tax purposes

Bought together all city employees to help everyone feel safe. Drills, CPR training, numbered the doors in Parson building

Invited residents to hear from all the city chair people.

Ideas he would implement if elected

Every 6 months open city hall to residents to hear what's happening

Bring advanced technology into city

Find new businesses

Taxes not more than 2.5%

Partner with city chairs and superintendent

Q and A with members

- **What are your thoughts on Stowe Barn?**

He replaced to roof that was rotting, but doesn't know what's happening now. He would discuss idea with community to keep a balance between open space and function that would keep town's

charm. A member suggested to make it a sustainable growing facility similar to Nourish in Bridgeport. Another member suggested getting it on the national registry of historic places

What can be done about land assessments that lead to higher taxes?

Need to change zoning regulations. Now developers can build whatever they want as long as they comply with wetlands and site lines. Also work with developers and actually monitor the number of affordable units and who is living in them.

Will there be one new High School for all?

Probably not going to happen because there isn't enough space for a new high school.

Is there a way to streamline the process of doing business with the city?

That is something he wants to work on

Wrap-up

Priorities for city:

- Education
- sewage issues
- getting work done/streamlining processes
- Day Care
- Better care for animals sheltering in place at animal control

Rich is being nominated for Mayor Thursday at 6pm at city hall it's open to the public

Old Business

New Business –

Music July 26th at the gallery

First beach concert is July 27

Motion to adjourn –

Adjourned at - _8:07_____

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Callahan

Secretary, Walnut Beach Association