

**Westport Village Society**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes October 6, 2017**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Thad Van Bueren.

Present: **Thad Van Bueren**, Donna Traycik, Lee Tepper, Dawn Tornell, **Lesli Langslet**, Ann Woodhead, Dorine Real, **Sarah Cullar**, Robert Finnell, Baile Oakes, **Bill Knapp**, Barbara Anderson, Rock Bush, Caroline Yale, **Melinda McLaughlin**, **Steve Brigham**, **Gary Quinton**

Thad welcomed those present then went over the agenda for the evening.

**2. WVS Activities**

Thad briefly reviewed the history of the organization, explained which board members' terms were expiring at this meeting, then gave an overview of the subcommittees of the organization:

**Executive** – (**Thad Van Bueren**, Bill Knapp, Gary Quinton) This year, this committee, among other things, created a comprehensive Board Manual to aid incoming members of the board.

**Community Center** – (**Melinda McLaughlin**, Sarah Cullar) The current focus of this committee is supporting programs at the Rec Center.

**Headlands** – (**Steve Brigham**, Gary Quinton) This committee oversees the maintenance of the Headlands Park.

**Fundraising** – (**Elika Freeman**, Lois Senger) The primary responsibility of this committee is the Ducky Race event, though other fundraising ideas are being explored.

**Financial Report:** Next, Bill Knapp presented the financial report for the year. First were the current account balances. Bill explained that there were significant repair/maintenance costs for the Headlands this year due to a very harsh winter. He also explained that Merchandise Inventory is no longer being tracked as a separate category; it will instead be charged to the event for which it is purchased. Under Fund Allocations, the Westport Union Landing heading is being phased out.

**Fundraising:** This year's Ducky Race netted around \$8,000. Though it had the highest ever expenditures, it also had the highest ever intake. Elika is currently in charge of the event and the event will continue.

**Outreach:** Steve Brigham produces the newsletter, The Wave, which is in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of publication. In addition to The Wave, the organization also communicates with its members via its website, which Thad manages. There is also a Facebook group for the organization and a Facebook page for the Headlands Park.

**Headlands Park:** Events are held at the Headlands park by permit. These mostly include the WVFD BBQ and private weddings. This year, the historical timber at Bridge Rock was removed from its location by high winter seas. It was rescued and hoisted to the top of the cliff by community members. The timber will be set on concrete piers and installed as a bench to the south of the stairs on the Headlands. A fin whale bone will be properly preserved and mounted with an educational plaque to the north of the observation platform.

**Land Conservation:** This year, the WVS looked at acquiring one or more of the smaller parcels not owned by the WVS that are along the southeastern boundary of the Headlands Park. These are known as

the inholdings. The largest parcel was of the greatest interest, as it is the only one that has the potential for building (though it would require a variance). The negotiations fell through as the owners were not willing to agree to sell for fair market value as determined by an independent appraisal. The two smaller parcels are unbuildable, but the WVS contacted the owners of one of them to see if they would donate the parcel or agree to a conservation easement on the property. However, it is owned by 6 people and they were unable to reach consensus on the matter. The WVS will continue to look for such opportunities.

**Other Programs:** Steve Brigham, and others, continue to maintain the Community Garden at the Rec Center. Sarah Cullar continues to organize markets on the Headlands and holiday events for the community's children. The organization continues to preserve and share local history, including the distribution of Thad Van Bueren's book about the area and an archive of photographs maintained and made available digitally by the WVS. The mini-grant program continues and has been used to fund community projects, events for children, and publicity for events.

**Community Center:** This year the focus has been on supporting programs and activities. This has included supplies for the rec programs, chairs for use at community meetings and events, and printing and framing historic pictures for display in the church building. An effort is in place to make the storage building on the church property more functional as a WVS archive. A survey was done in 2003 asking the community what they most wanted in a Community Center. The top priorities were a large multi-use space, a community kitchen, and a town office/archive. It was suggested that it might be time to ask the community what their priorities are now.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from last year's annual meeting were posted on the WVS website. Moving forward, the minutes will now be approved at the next Quarterly Board Meeting as waiting a year to approve the minutes seems far too long. After asking for any concerns regarding the minutes as posted, **Bill Knapp made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Quinton and passed with a unanimous vote.**

### **4. Election**

The terms of three board members were up for election: Thad Van Bueren, Steve Brigham, and Dorine Real. Thad and Steve were both interested in serving again. Lesli Langslet presented herself as a candidate for a board position. In the past she has participated in the organization as a committee member and has helped with fundraising. She has a background as a paralegal and a grant writer.

After asking for any more nominees, an election was held. There were 15 voting members present, qualifying as quorum. The three candidates, Thad, Steve, and Lesli, were voted in unanimously. Dorine was thanked for her many years of service to the board.

### **5. Member Forum**

The floor was opened to those present for any subjects they wanted to present for discussion:

Bob Finnell suggested having an annual meeting of all the major boards in the community: WVS, WVFD, Water, Church, and Cemetary. He was also appreciative of the creation of a board manual and commended its thoroughness.

Thad briefly reviewed efforts for a Community Center in Westport and expressed current interest in the possibility of the WVS taking on the Church property as its own, allowing for development via grant monies which still allowing the site to be used for church services. Baile expressed his opinion that the

current facilities are under used. He would like to see them used more before further development is explored. Steve mentioned that the Church Board meets on the first Sunday of each month and invited folks to come discuss the subject.

Bill shared a written communication asking about developing the water treatment pond as a habitat for migrating birds.

Rock asked about repairing the trail to Pete's Beach. State Parks is willing to let the community do it if there is oversight and volunteers sign waivers.

Thad would like to see a trail for bikes along Westport Union Landing, it could possibly be done in much the same way as repairs to the Pete's Beach trail.

Dawn asked about the observation deck at Howard Creek. It's been closed for some time, but she was wondering if local volunteers could repair that as well.

Melinda is concerned about the decking along the front of the Rec Center. It needs repair (possible rotting of the support structure). Baile suggested that the school district is responsible for it.

Dorine mentioned desire in the community to have power lines put underground. This requires community members to request this from PG&E and keep following up until it is done. Another matter that requires similar effort would be the installation of boardwalks along the Highway 1 for the village proper. Dorine would also like to see the Community Center coordinate with the WVFD on disaster preparedness.

**6. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm for snacks with a slideshow on the history of the WVS to follow.**