

MINUTES OF THE WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

***FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM
AT WESTPORT COMMUNITY CENTER***

1. *Call to Order: - Establish Board Quorum /Agenda*

WVS President Thad Van Bueren functioned as the Chairman and welcomed all attendees, calling the Meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was properly noticed to Members by email or USPS mailings and an agenda and minutes of the prior Annual Meeting were posted on the WVS website. An option was provided for Zoom participation and Director Bill Knapp hosted that interface during this meeting.

The following Board Members were present: Mr. Bill Knapp, Tabby Korhummel, Dorine Real, Beck Regalia, and Thad Van Bueren. Directors Robert Finnell and Sheila Winslow were unable to attend. Thirteen (13) other current WVS Members and two other people also attended as evidenced by the proffered Sign-In document archived with these minutes. Those additional members are Kay Rudin, Rob Holt, Arthur Ferreira, Ed Truthan, Norm & Karen Rosen, Cy Wilcox, George Lin, David Brothers, Lee Tepper, Noemi Shirmann, Melinda McLaughlin, and Jeff Whitehouse. Public attendees were Carla Thomas and Julie West and Member Evelyn Erickson participated by Zoom. In Mr. Finnell's absence, Mr. Van Bueren prepared these minutes.

2. *Overview of Westport Village Society Mission and Activities*

Mr. Van Bueren led a PowerPoint presentation that began with an overview of the purpose and mission of WVS as a charitable 501 (c)(3) entity and how pursues those purposes through decisions made at quarterly Board meetings and an Annual Member Meeting held the first Friday in October at 7:00 PM. The primary goals of WVS include land conservation and supporting other charitable and educational programs that benefit the community. A review of projects that were actively pursued this past year was then offered.

Work continued on two land conservation projects. The Westport Headlands property was acquired in 2000 with State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) grant funding and access improvements were completed in 2005. This past year the stairway was closed until temporary repairs were completed. A permanent solution will need to be planned, funded, and constructed in the coming year. Regular maintenance included periodic mowing and other minor repairs. The DeHaven property was acquired in 2022 and a Management Plan was finalized with input from members and the public. Permits have been approved for public access improvements and a \$270k was awarded by the SCC in September to construct a stairway, 5 space paved parking lot, 300 feet of paved ADA-accessible trail, signs, and a network of mowed pedestrian trails not suitable for disabled visitors. That work will occur next summer using a contractor to build the structural elements.

Other programs actively pursued with the help of volunteers included a community garden on the grounds of the Westport Community Church, hosting social events that included potlucks and other activities at the Community Center, supporting other events and festivities with a mini-grant program, maintaining an archive of local history that includes photographs and framed artwork, and facilitating communication within our community. WVS has been creating and distributing a monthly community newsletter "The Westport Wave," since the nonprofit was formed. The distribution of that newsletter is by email, posting it on the WVS website, and making hard copies available at the Westport Community Store. The WVS website is updated several times a month and includes a lot of valuable information including a calendar of local events. WVS also hosts a Facebook page, but that venue has not been actively managed this past year. The possibility of reviving the Great Rubber Ducky Race was explored this past year, but did not attract enough volunteers to resume our signature fundraiser held in previous years on Mother's Day from 1992 until the covid epidemic commenced.

3. Financial Report

WVS Treasurer Bill Knapp noted that the WVS fiscal year ends each June 30th and presented spreadsheets detailing Assets amounting to \$1,976,068.11, most of which is land. The depreciation process for capital improvements was elaborated. Then the WVS Income Statement for FY 2025 was discussed with slides showing Income and Expenses. The net cash income for the past year increased the value of our bank accounts by \$22,516.85 for a closing balance in all four accounts of \$224,400.72. Questions were asked and answered.

4. Annual Board of Directors Election Count Process and Results

Mr. Van Bueren provided a brief overview of the selection process to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. Two seats with 3-year terms are up for election at this meeting. A call for candidates was placed in the August 1 Westport Wave newsletter and two applications were received by the filing deadline August 28 from Bill Knapp and Madison McKenney. Their statements of interest were then published in the September 1 Westport Wave newsletter and included in the Notice for this Annual Meeting distributed to Members. The Bylaws require the use of written ballots.

Director Dorine Real served as the Election Inspector and handed out ballots to the 18 Members who attended this meeting in person. The number of Members who voted exceeded 10% of the total membership of 102 required to hold a valid election according to the Bylaws. Bill Knapp and Madison McKenney were approved to fill the two vacant positions on the Board for 3 year terms. The ballots and Membership list current on this date will be retained in the archives for the period required by the Bylaws.

5. Open Discussion Forum

Mr. Van Bueren opened up the floor for Member discussion regarding possible future activities and priorities that further the WVS mission, noting the importance of volunteer assistance. Several members expressed their interest in helping with the Westport Headlands stairway repair and the access improvement construction on the DeHaven property. Ed Truthan expressed interest in Native American history and said he was willing to help with communications such as the newsletter. Evelyn Erickson suggest WVS coordination with local tribes concerning land conservation. Dorine Real advocated support for emergency preparedness. The need for a place to dump and compost local green waste was mentioned by Cy Wilcox and Beck Regalia.

Adjournment.

The Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Thad M. Van Bueren, President