

January 1, 2022

The Westport Wave

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Panorama of sale property looking south from Westport-Union Landing State Beach

A Local Conservation Opportunity

Bill Knapp and Thad M. Van Bueren

In 1992, an inspired group of locals formed a nonprofit dedicated to land conservation and local charitable projects. Eight years later, the nascent Westport Village Society acquired the headlands in the village with lots of local support and a generous grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). It just goes to show that amazing things can happen if we share a vision.

Since that time, Westport Village Society volunteers have pursued many projects to support the vitality of our wonderful community. We've raised funds to support programs such as access improvements at the headlands, community events, this newsletter, the community garden, an ongoing community history project, the Annual Ducky Race (which started as fundraising and became a signature social event) and many other community based activities. Nearly three decades later we have a unique opportunity to

conserve another priceless local oceanfront parcel if the community, public, and local tribes are supportive.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. This moment in time aligns several entities wanting to conserve Mendocino coastal land. The local landowner who strongly supports conservation, SCC, the agency that made WVS's purchase of the Westport Headlands possible, the Mendocino Land Trust another agency that has worked with WVS over the years, and of course WVS itself. WVS was formed to provide a vehicle for the local community, defined as the area between Ten Mile River to the South and Usal Rd. to the North, in the acquisition and management of land in its area of influence. However, for WVS to undertake an additional acquisition, the community must participate and show support for the action. WVS is motivated to take whatever appropriate action the community will support to conserve the DeHaven Creek Headlands parcel.

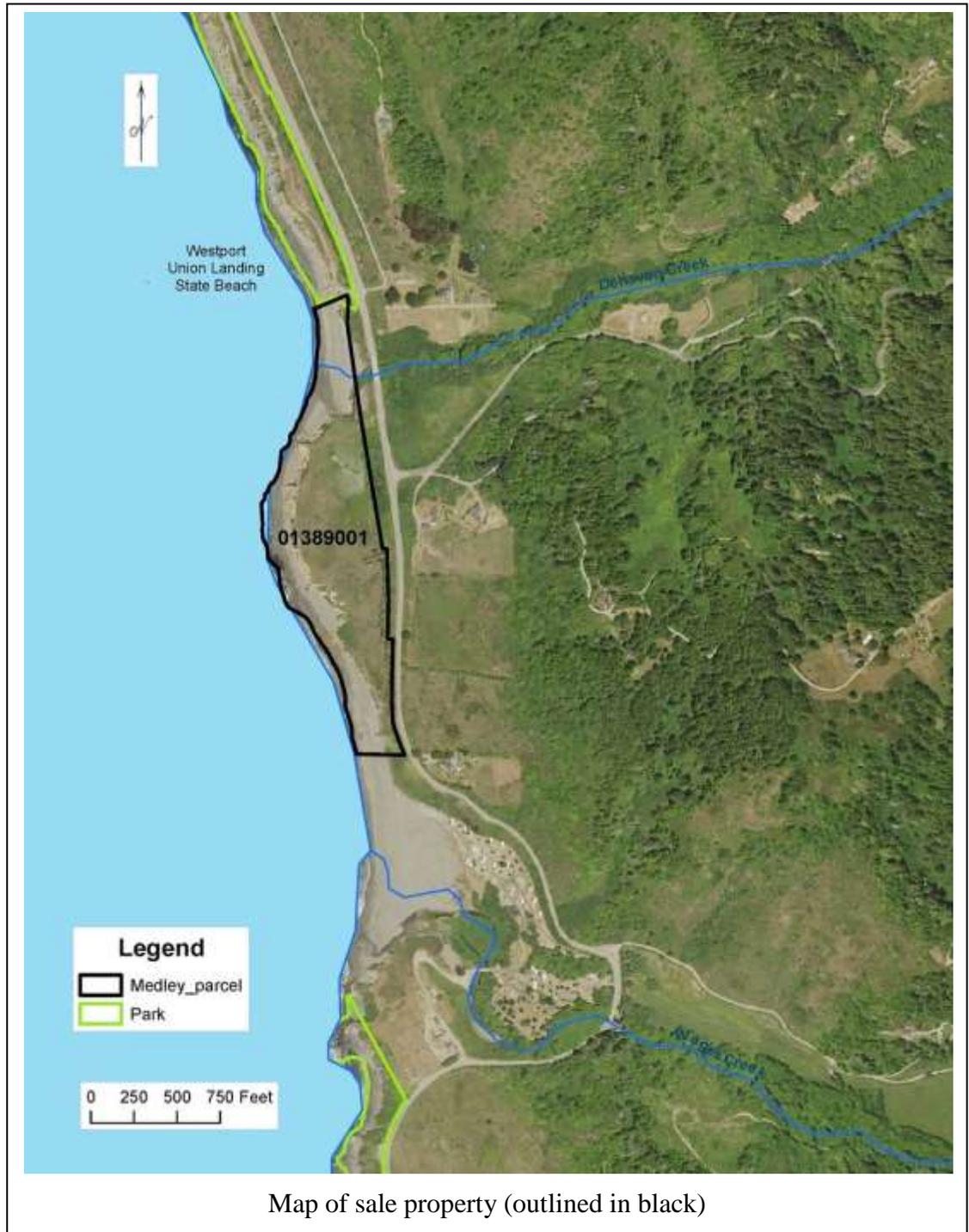
The 26-acre property lies west of Highway 1 across from Branscomb Road. Its northern boundary abuts the south end of Westport Union Landing State Beach

at the closed gate. The path down to DeHaven Beach from that gate is on this private parcel of land.

The property includes the beach and headlands south of the state parklands. It has never been developed and thus remains relatively pristine. The land features a wide variety of natural habitats bisected by DeHaven Creek. Those habitats support many types of animals and plants. If it is acquired by a land trust like WVS, there is an opportunity to extend public access an additional half mile south of the state parklands.

WVS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the owner that gives us 90 days to plan a strategy for acquisition. The possibilities for grant funding are promising, but local fundraising will be essential to improve prospects for grant approval. Our goal now is to gauge your interest in this conservation opportunity and find out if you are willing to help. One way to show support is to send a tax deductible contribution to WVS, with DeHaven Creek Headlands Project written in the memo line.

The Westport Village Society will host a meeting and field-trip on Saturday, January 8th. We'd like your input and indications of support. The



meeting will kick off at 10 AM at the Westport Community Center. Please wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. Information about the project will be provided, followed by an opportunity to ask questions and offer input. Input can also be emailed (wvs@westportvillagesociety.org) or mailed to WVS at PO Box 446. About 11 AM we will take a field trip to the property. Please wear appropriate gear including rubber boots.



This Westport Community Church discussion group is focused upon **Thich Nhat Hahn’s Book: “Living Buddha, Living Christ”**. No need to have the book. We will share passages from the book and discuss how they might or might not influence how we show up for our selves and all Creation.

We request that attendees be vaccinated and we will meet according to the Church Covid precautions.

Introduction To Our New Hill Top Neighbor Babaji – Sunday, January 9th, at 2:00PM

Baile Oakes

Westport Community Church News

Erin Detrick, President, WCC

The Westport Community Church Board would like to announce that the Church and Community Hall are now available for indoor activities. Protocol for events: 1. You must write your event details on the calendar available at the Westport Store. Without this step, your event does not exist. 2. All those that attend your event (including vaccinated individuals) **MUST WEAR A MASK**.

Cleanup is also required with hygienic wiping of touched surfaces like door handles. All activities must be placed on the calendar at the Westport Store. Please contact me at erind.3500@gmail.com or 707-489-2546 for information about holding events or any other questions you may have regarding the Church or Hall. Again, our Church Board thanks you for your continued patience and support.

Thich Nhat Hahn Discussion Group – Sunday, January 9th, 10:00AM

Baile Oakes

As some of our neighbors already know, we have a new neighbor at Hill Top Ranch!

Babaji is a spiritual teacher, originally from India. He established Sonoma Ashram in Sonoma County in 1991 as a sacred and nurturing environment for spiritual growth and selfless service. He also leads various social service projects in India, including a school, homes for abandoned youth, and an eye hospital, among others.

While deeply rooted in the ancient yogic wisdom of Northern India, Babaji’s teachings are practical and accessible to all regardless of religion, faith, or creed.

Babaji says, “Spirituality is not a mystery. It is the inherent nature of each individual to live a spiritual life.”

If you would like to meet Babaji and learn more about his service in life, he will be speaking on *Peace Through Meditation* at our Westport Community Church on January 9th, 2022 at 2:00PM. Please consider welcoming our new neighbor and join us!

Babaji shares time between Hill Top and the Sonoma Ashram. We can look forward to reading more from him in future editions of the Wave. For more information on Babaji, please visit www.sonomaashram.org.



WVFD won 1st Place at the Holiday Lights Parade!

Westport Volunteer Fire Department News

WVFD

The last few weeks in 2021 were very productive and exciting for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department.

At the end of November we received our new rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Effective March 1, 2022 our ISO rating will be 04/4X, an improvement over our current rating of 05/5X. The new rating should help members of our community obtain fire insurance. ISO has evaluated and rated more than 39,000 fire protection areas across the United States. Our new 04/4X rating puts us in the top 32% of all fire departments evaluated by ISO, including paid as well as volunteer fire departments.

On December 4 our newest fire engine participated in Fort Bragg's annual Holiday Lights parade. Decorations on the engine included a couple of "snow people" and twinkling lights. Jeff Mathias and Eric Dumars rode up front, with Hunter, Kirk and Anya riding in the back. We won first place in the large commercial category of participants.

At our December business meeting Juliana Sanchez was unanimously elected to become the newest active duty member of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. Juliana was born in Fort Bragg, and then lived in Jalisco, Mexico for ten years. She has fond memories of riding horses and spending time outdoors as a young child. After returning to the United States and completing her education Juliana

worked for the Fort Bragg School District in early childhood development for a number of years. She recently joined the staff of the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund as its community resource specialist. Juliana has a passion for helping people and is looking forward to responding to 911 emergency calls for our community.

Saturday December 18 was a really fun day. We had water rescue training in the morning at Wages Creek Beach with State Parks, CalFire and Mendocino Fire, learning how to launch jet ski rescue craft in the surf. Eric Dumars donned his wetsuit and volunteered to be one

of the water rescue "victims." As the victims were plucked out of the water and safely brought to shore we were able to practice and sharpen our medical aid skills for water emergencies. In the late afternoon, thanks to the generosity of Lee Tepper and Dorine Real, we gathered at the Hotel for a potluck Holiday celebration.

2021 was a good year for our Fire Department. We are very grateful for the support we receive from our community. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and safe New Year!





Newest active duty WVFD member Juliana Sanchez is sworn in in December by WVFD Assistant Chief John Huff

includes a 108 square mile response area. **All members of the WVFD are unpaid volunteers.** We totally support Fire Chief Maxey's request. A good way for all people who reside in the WVFD district would be to make a monthly or semiannual contribution.

If a family of 2 adults would contribute \$25.00 per adult per month, the annual contribution would \$600.00 a year. If a family of 2 adults would contribute \$50.00 per adult per month the annual contribution would be \$1200.00 per year. Any monthly contribution would be helpful.

We should also support all the fund raising events that the WVFD has each year. You can volunteer to assist at each event and also attend each fund raising event.

You can make a contribution to the WVFD at:

WVFD
P.O. Box 67
Westport, CA 95488

Support The Westport Volunteer Fire Department

In November we received a letter from Fire Chief Daniel Maxey requesting financial support for the Westport Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD). In his letter Fire Chief Maxey stated that the WVFD provides year-round 24 hour a day first response emergency service for all property owners, residents and visitors who experience a fire, vehicle accident or medical emergency. The WVFD



Jet ski water training in the surf on December 18th



Looking south over Marine Protected Area. Rockport is just beyond the pointy rock.

(Photos by Suzanne Moss, Save the Redwoods League)

timber industry in science-based innovation and land management practices that foster sustainable forests and healthy salmon habitat. Soper Company was also the first California-based timber company to plant one million trees.

Much of the property's 2,250-acre forest is now home to second-growth coast redwoods, Douglas-fir and grand fir, ranging in age from 80 to 100 years, with large, old-growth trees scattered throughout. The forested hillsides overlook coastal prairies and steep bluffs that lead down to a vast secluded beach and seascape.

The forest on the Lost Coast Redwoods property provides suitable habitat for endangered northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and Pacific fisher as well as more familiar but still wild creatures such as Roosevelt elk and

mountain lions. The property's streams support abundant habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout,

Lost Coast Redwoods

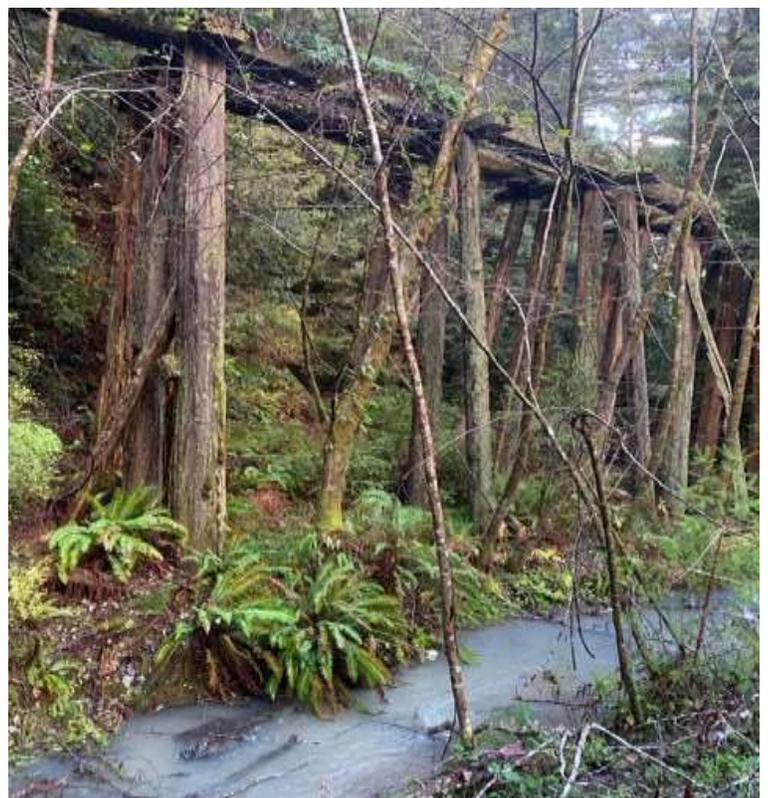
Dorine Real

On December 9 the Save the Redwoods League announced that they have secured the opportunity to buy the land we know as DeVilbiss Ranch. They are calling it the Lost Coast Redwoods

<https://savetheredwoods.org/project/lostcoastreredwoods>

The Lost Coast Redwoods is their highest priority land acquisition because it includes five miles of spectacular coastline containing over 2,000 acres of largely well-managed older second-growth redwood forest which was under direct threat of accelerated harvesting or development.

Soper Company bought the DeVilbiss Ranch in 1963 for timber production. Most of the property had been aggressively logged in prior decades, but the Soper Company focused its work on developing a sustainably managed redwood forest. It was the first California timber company to practice sustainable forestry through ethical stewardship, and it led the



An old trestle attests to the area's logging history

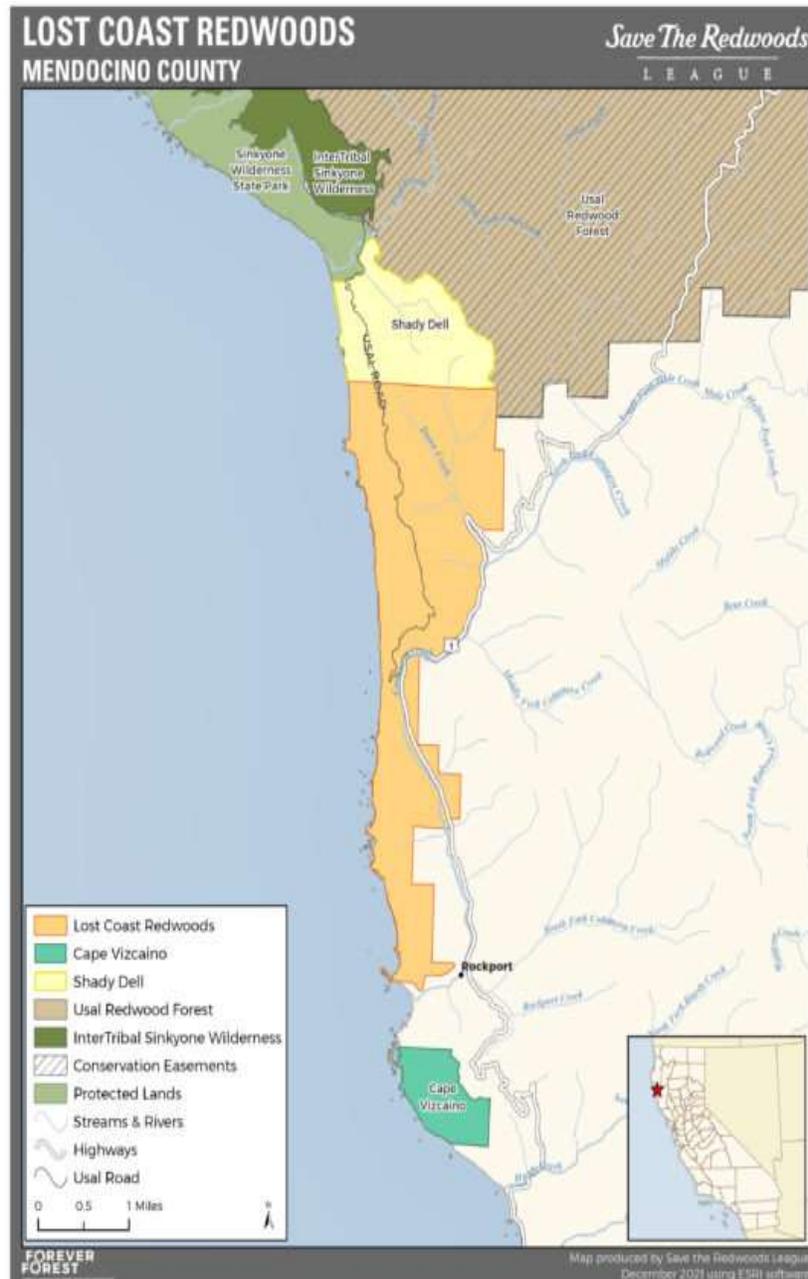
culturally and ecologically important species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Cottaneva and Dunn Creeks have both been identified by the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife as critical habitat for spawning and rearing juvenile fish. These streams, which Soper helped to restore, also provide habitat for other plant and animal species of special concern, such as seaside bittercress, Whitney's farewell to spring, Point Reyes horkelia, foothill yellow-legged frog, Pacific tailed frog, red-bellied newt and southern torrent salamander.

Offshore, the recently designated Double Cone Rock State Marine Conservation Area buffers the sensitive coastline and protects sea lions and other marine life along the five miles of undeveloped beach. The islands just offshore, including Vizcaino Rock, support more than 11,500 nesting sea birds.

The traditional territories of the Sinkyone, Cahto and Coast Yuki peoples converge here. For millennia, these tribal nations have maintained relationships of reciprocity with the landscapes and seascapes of their traditional territories, thus enabling biological diversity and abundance. In the mid-1800s, they were subjected to genocide and forced removal by European American settlers. Tribal nations of this region remain connected to their territories and are



revitalizing their roles of traditional guardianship and stewardship.

When this piece is added, “the protected mosaic of California’s famed Lost Coast” will stretch for about 53 miles, from the Mattole River to Cape Viscaino (the old Thompson Ranch, also owned by Save the Redwoods). The acquisition may offer the potential to extend the famed Lost Coast Trail southward 5 miles, but the terrain is extremely challenging, so that would be a careful process. As soon as the purchase is completed the new owners will begin studying the possibilities for public access.

Save the Redwoods League only has until December 31 to raise

\$36.9 million to fund this purchase. They are determined, and they will succeed. But in case you want to make a donation -- so that you can point up the coast and say, “That’s my forest,” – it’s nice to know that every donation made before the December 31 deadline, up to a total of \$1 million, will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Any donation, no matter when you give in 2022, will help!

Map above shows Lost Coast Redwoods in relation to the League’s Shady Dell and Cape Vizcaino properties. Usal Beach and Hardy Creek are on the map but not labeled.



HAPPY NEW YEAR from the *Westport Wave*!

January 2022 Westport Calendar

(Please note that because of COVID, meeting occurrences, dates, and modes may vary.)

Saturday, January 1st, 2022 – New Year’s Day

Sunday, January 2nd – Super New Moon, 10:33AM

Tuesday, January 4th —WMAC Meeting via zoom at 7 PM. Contact WMAC95488@gmail.com for details.

Thursday, January 6th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (masks required)

Saturday, January 8th – Land Conservation Opportunity: meet Saturday at 10 AM at Community Center, followed by field trip. Please wear a mask (see pages 1 and 2 for details)

Sunday, January 9th – Thich Nhat Han Discussion Group, 10:00AM, Westport Church (see page 3)

Sunday, January 9th – Babaji talk on “Peace Through Meditation”, Westport Community Church, 2:00PM (see page 3)

Wednesday, January 12th – Westport Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Meeting, 6:00PM (call Chief Dan Maxey at (707) 357-4353 to attend remotely)

Thursday, January 13th – Westport County Water District Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00PM (call Kayla Cooper at (707)367-1057 for information on attending by Zoom)

Monday, January 17th – Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 17th – Full Moon, 3:48PM

Thursday, January 20th – Bookmobile, 9:30AM-10:00AM, Westport Store (masks required)

Thursday, January 20th – Westport Community Church Board Meeting, at 10:00 AM at the Church. Masks are required.

Wednesday, January 26th – Westport Village Society Board Meeting at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Contact wvs@westportvillagesociety.org for details.

Monday, January 31st – Black New Moon (second new moon in one month), 9:46PM. LUNAR NEW YEAR BEGINS (Chinese Year of the Water Tiger)

The Westport Wave is a free monthly community newsletter published by the **Westport Village Society**, a non-profit community-benefit organization. Internet subscribers to *The Wave* receive their **COLOR** copies on or before the first day of every month by e-mail. Printed (black-and-white) copies of our current newsletter are also available for free at the Westport Community Store. Both the current *Westport Wave* and ten years of monthly back-issues are also on the Newsletter page of our WVS website www.westportvillagesociety.org. **Contributions for our February 1st, 2022 issue of *The Westport Wave* are due by January 27th,** and should be sent to Editor Steve Brigham at westportwave@gmail.com. Thanks!

“To meditate is to be aware of what is going on...Once you know what is going on, you’re motivated by a desire to do something to relieve the suffering — both in you and around you.”

— Thich Nhat Hanh —
Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet

Westport Village

Babaji talk on “Peace Through Meditation”, January 9th at 2:00PM, Westport Church