

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF SHORT BEACH, CONNECTICUT
PO BOX 2012
SHORT BEACH, CT 06405-1112
www.shortbeach.org

December 17, 2007

Dear CASB Member,

We've had a busy first few months of Fiscal 2008 and on behalf of the Executive Board, I'd like to provide an update to you as a member of our special body politic, which is one of the oldest independent special taxing districts in the state of Connecticut, dating back to the 1895 establishment of the Short Beach Improvement Association.

In fact, of the hundreds of special districts in the state, our CASB and Clinton's Grove Beach Association are the two oldest improvement societies in the state, both dating to 1895. Many of the other districts are single-purpose entities for fire, sewer, or more recently for purposes of managing condo complexes.

As an improvement association, our Charter calls in general for us "to provide protection for the property, health and morals of the inhabitants ... the improvement of property ... and the comfort and convenience of persons living therein." Pursuant to that Charter, we have the following Organization of volunteer Officers and Committees who serve to carry out the specifics of our Charter:

Officers

<u>President</u>	Michael Mahoney	488-6074
<u>Vice President</u>	Robert Silten	488-3207
<u>Zoning Enforcement Officer</u>	David Perkins	488-4514
<u>Treasurer</u>	Eda DiMassa	488-3295
<u>Clerk</u>	Michalah Bracken	483-9841

Committees

<u>Finance</u>	Chair: Eda DiMassa	488-3295
	Michael Mahoney	488-6074
	Michalah Bracken	483-9841
	Robert Silten	488-3207
<u>Sanitation</u>	Chair: Robert Silten	488-3207
	Douglas Hanlon	488-8870
	Timothy Judd	488-5835

Sidewalks and Roads

Chair: Alinor Sterling 488-3381
Douglas Hanlon 488-8870
Michael Mahoney 488-6074

Fire and Police

Chair: Timothy Judd 488-5835
John Gallalee 481-7246
Robert Silten 488-3207

Parks and Beaches

Chair: Douglas Hanlon 488-8870
John Gallalee 481-7246
Eda Di Massa 488-3295

General / Zoning

Chair: David Perkins 488-4514
Robert Silten 488-2307
John Gallalee 481-7246
Alinor Sterling 488-3381
Michael Mahoney 488-6074

In our current incarnation as the “Civic Association of Short Beach” we held our first meeting in July 1921 at the chapel on Pentecost Street now known as Union Church. We continue to meet there on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Following is the remaining Fiscal Year 2008 (August 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008) CASB Calendar:

**Regular Executive Board Meetings
7:30 PM, Short Beach Union Church**

Monday, December 10, 2007
Monday, January 14, 2008
Monday, February 11, 2008
Monday, March 10, 2008
Monday, April 14, 2008
Monday, May 12, 2008
Monday, June 9, 2008
Monday, July 14, 2008

This year, our Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, July 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM, location To Be Announced.

In addition to these regularly scheduled meetings, we on occasion hold special meetings to solicit public input on specific local issues requiring action by the Executive Board. For example, earlier this year we held a meeting on the upcoming sidewalk improvement project. **Please keep your eye out for a meeting we will hold in the January timeframe on planned revisions to the CASB Charter, where we’ll seek input on several specific issues that have arisen over the past couple years.**

Committees – Call for Volunteers

In the following section we provide an update on the work our committees have undertaken recently. There is far more work to be done. We are looking for volunteers to join the following efforts:

- Framing of issues and work to organize the Charter Review Public Hearing for January, 2008 (Please contact Michael Mahoney @ 488-6074)
- Help with General Committee work to organize files and ensure we are in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (Also available as a paid assistant position on a temporary basis – Please contact Michalah Bracken at 483-9841)
- Help with improving the Zoning Application Process (Please contact David Perkins at 488-4514)

Sidewalks and Roads

Under **Alinor Sterling's** diligent leadership and **Doug Hanlon's** active participation, we've made significant strides in addressing improvement to Short Beach's "main drag" sidewalks along Shore Drive:

\$150,000 State Grant for Sidewalks:

In Fall of 2006, our neighborhood's efforts to get State funds for, and approval of, a stop and sign and new sidewalks along Shore Drive were finally successful. A stop sign was installed at the corner of Court Street and Shore Drive and the State approved \$150,000 in funds to be used for sidewalks on Shore Drive. The Sidewalks Committee held a Public Hearing to discuss priorities for spending the funds. We learned after the meeting that the State is requiring that the funds be used exclusively on Shore Drive, so despite interest expressed at the Public Hearing to use the funds in areas off Shore Drive, this project must be limited to Shore Drive.

Branford's Town Engineer, **Janice Plaziak**, has been working with officials from the State Department of Transportation to determine what requirements the State will place on how the Town can spend the money. The Town had originally hoped to use its own contracting process for the project. The State, however, has put some conditions on how the money can be spent. The DOT, recognizing the small size of the project, has attempted to assist the Town in finding cost-effective ways for the Town to begin the project. Janice is now seeking bids for design of the project and hopes to have the survey and design process completed this winter and to begin construction in the spring. The current plan is to improve the sidewalks on the South (water) side of Shore Drive, beginning at the Little Bay Lane and extending as far toward the Farm River as funds will permit.

Corner in Front of Cranberries and Che Tango:

Ed Masotta of the Department of Public Works in Branford has undertaken to assist property owner **Judith Saleeby** in replacing the tree that was cut down at this corner. In

addition, the Department of Public Works will replace and repair the sidewalk on this side of Shore Drive from Taylor Place to the Stop Sign at the corner of Shore Drive and Court Street. As a part of the project, the Department of Public Works is considering some “streetscaping”, which may include planting additional trees along that stretch of sidewalk. Any improvements in this area will require approval from the State of Connecticut, because Route 142 (Shore Drive) is a state road. We expect that this project will get underway this winter. Anyone with ideas about this project should contact Alinor Sterling (488-3381) as soon as possible.

The Board Thanks Judy Saleeby for her efforts over the years to keep the corner of Shore Drive and Court Streets a useful one for the community. We look forward to working with her in placing a new Kiosk for Public Notice at the Post Office as has been the traditional place for posting Public Notice from our 1921 Charter and before.

Fire and Police

Tim Judd has been working continually since joining the board to address issues of adequate infrastructure for Fire Protection in Short Beach. He is working with the Branford Fire Department and the Regional Water Authority on adequacy of water mains for our neighborhood, as well as keeping us informed on the latest developments from Branford.

An important piece of good news is increased from-the-water fire fighting capacity in the form of a Fire Boat newly stationed at the Branford River.

On the water-main and adequacy of hydrants issue the picture is a bit less rosy. Tim has done research on national standards for hydrants and water mains. The Branford fire marshals feel the water pressure in the Short Beach area is sufficient, yet our overall adequacy rating is between 4 and 5, where the best rating is a “1”. Basically, there seems to be sufficient water, but there is some question about pressure. More testing will be done by the Fire Department, but the Regional Water Authority thinks there is no shortage of water to be applied, seemingly regardless the pressure issues.

Parks and Beaches

Doug Hanlon continues to fight the good fight to keep the trash cans present, the doggie-bags replenished, equipment in working order, and in keeping the trees and other landscape in good condition.

Finance

Eda DiMassa has done a great job presenting all the bills at the Monthly Meeting for discussion and payment, and managing our insurance contracts and financial audit. All bills are paid to date, and thanks to great teamwork between Michalah and Eda, we had 100% collection rate on the Annual Fees.

General and Zoning

Work of the Clerk

Michalah Bracken has also done great work filling **Fran Clark's** very large shoes as Clerk of the Executive Board. Fran has been very graciously volunteering her time to help the transition, which the Board much appreciates.

On the overall state of documentation and files kept by the Clerk, **Town Historian Jane Peterson Bouley** donated her time and worked with Michalah on a detailed plan to improve record keeping for CASB. This includes working with various other parts of Town of Branford to ensure proper record and public access is available for key records CASB keeps, which include:

- Applications
- Financial Records
- Meeting Minutes
- General Correspondence
- Liens
- Lawsuits

For any record no longer required to be retained by law, the Board will set aside for evaluation all photographs, maps, or surveys that may be historically important.

General Committee Work

At present, the General Committee has started a sub-committee comprising **Michael Mahoney**, **Alinor Sterling**, and CASB Member volunteer **Jon Nicholas** to examine our Association's Charter and By-Laws, as well as the legislative history of the Zoning Regulations in preparation for a January Public Hearing. Look for an announcement and published notice for the Public Hearing, with an agenda that will include the framed set of issues to be discussed at the hearing.

To reiterate the invitation from above, we would like a couple more volunteers to help with this effort. Legal background not required. We will consult legal experts to ensure our procedures are carried out in accordance to all requirements for changing a significant defining document as our Charter.

Zoning Commission Work

As a reminder, a Zoning Application is required for any construction that is not simply a repair. The Board anticipates work to improve and streamline the Zoning Application process, including making more specific and clear WHEN an application is required, and is looking for help to do this work.

The Zoning Commission currently has responsibility for enforcing the Zoning Regulations as written with respect to the Application Process as well as for approving As-Built projects for Certificates of Occupancy. The Executive Board has no authority to approve plans that do not comply with the regulations, so non-compliant applications are

immediately rejected and are to be addressed in the Variance Application process managed by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Please remember to submit zoning requests to David Perkins or Robert Silten AT LATEST by the Friday before the regular meeting during which you plan to present your application. Zoning Applications and Zoning Rule and Regulations can be found at www.shortbeach.org. Also please note that adding impervious surfaces (such as paved driveways) to your property requires a Zoning Application to ensure regulated percentage of impervious surfaces is adhered to.

In closing, we've been off to a busy start for this Fiscal Year, and by the end of the year we aim to have major improvement in our Sidewalks, our Recordkeeping, and our overall Governance, Communication, and Engagement with the Community. Clarity of purpose for our Association is important and flows from our Charter, so this year is an important one for our current community members to participate and keep that purpose current with the times yet respectful of the rich history of Short Beach.

Have a happy holiday season and remember to check www.shortbeach.org for updates and copies of minutes from the monthly meetings, which will also be available in hard copy in limited quantities at the Post Office after each monthly meeting.

Very truly yours,

Michael Mahoney
President, CASB