

ELEPHANT ROCK BEACH CLUB  
Westport, MA

March 1, 2023

To the ERBC Membership:

We enter the 2023 season with a number of changes in leadership of ERBC. First, a big “thank you” to Sayles Livingston and Lydia Gollner who both retired from the Board last year after combined service of nearly 40 years. Second, I’d like to thank Bob Humphrey who leaves as President after six years of service (but will continue to serve on the Board), including navigating us through the challenges of the pandemic. Finally, I would like to welcome new Board members Joe Ritchie and Kate Mullen. Joe will also serve as our Treasurer and Kate will serve as Clerk.

Over the winter, the Board has been working on several initiatives that may be of interest to members:

- Effective January 1, 2023, the marina on Boathouse Row transferred to the Charlton Dock Corporation. Current ERBC members will retain their slips with Charlton Dock assuming full financial and management responsibility for the marina. We believe this change aligns the marina with the organization best able to manage the property.
- Construction of the new ADA-compliant ramp from the road up to the pavilion will commence this spring, with work to be completed by the club opening in June. This project was deferred for a couple of years because of a spike in lumber costs. With prices now somewhat stabilized, it is time to make this important improvement in access to our club.
- The Westport Harbor Water Association (“WHWA”), which supplies water for ERBC, continues its search for a new water supply. Test wells on River Road are scheduled to be drilled in the next few weeks. Based on WHWA’s assessment methodology, ERBC will bear a significant percentage of the cost of this new water supply. ERBC can cover the expected cost only through an assessment of its membership, which is likely this year or next.

- The Board has been actively discussing future changes in membership criteria, with particular focus on children of members who have accessed the club through either Derivative Membership or the Child ID programs. At a minimum, we intend to document membership policies and waiting list criteria. If you would like to provide input into this discussion, please let me know.

I am pleased to report that there will be no increase in annual dues for 2023. We had a slight surplus from last year, and we have found some savings in insurance costs for this year, that will allow us to keep dues the same notwithstanding inflation in personnel and other costs. However, the Board has voted to increase initiation fees to four times annual dues (from two times annual dues). This brings ERBC more in line with the initiation fees at similar clubs and will help cover costs such as the new ADA-compliant ramp and the anticipated costs of the water system.

Beach chair storage under the pavilion seemed to work well so that will be available during the 2023 season. However, space is limited and I would request that members store no more than four chairs in that space. Also, all chairs should be clearly marked with your name. Note that several dozen chairs were not picked up at the end of last season. We stored those in the pavilion over the winter but, in the future, chairs not removed by October 31<sup>st</sup> will be discarded.

Please be sure to purchase Child IDs for adult children of members over age 29 so that they may enjoy **unaccompanied** access to ERBC and be able to use their parents' parking pass. Without a Child ID, adult children must always be accompanied by their parent member to be signed in as a guest and have access to the parking lot.

I am looking forward to summer and seeing everyone at the beach.

Ralph C. Derbyshire  
President

derbyr100@gmail.com