

**ELEPHANT ROCK BEACH CLUB**  
**P.O. BOX 3435**  
**WESTPORT, MA 02790**

March 1, 2026

To the ERBC Membership,

As we endure a cold, snowy winter here in the Harbor, I'm sure we are all eagerly anticipating warm summer days at Elephant Rock!

This year, we are pleased to welcome Ann Marie Forbes to the Board. Ann Marie has a long-standing commitment to Westport Harbor and ERBC and we are delighted to have her join the Board. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to departing Board member Beth Kendall who has served ERBC for 15 years, most recently as Vice President. Beth made countless valuable contributions to the Board, and she will likely be best remembered for her efforts to upgrade our ERBC logo merchandise on sale at the beach office. Beth, thank you for your years of service to the Club. As always, we encourage members to get involved in the governance of ERBC. If you're interested, please reach out to the Board via the email address below.

Here's a quick update on some key topics:

- As with last year, there will be no increase in either dues or guest fees for 2026.
- We continued our successful beach restoration efforts to address damage from the storms of winter 2024. Last November, we planted an additional 12,000 plugs of beach grass over two days. A huge thanks to the 40 or so volunteers who showed up to assist with this hard (but rewarding) work!
- ERBC has been involved in the development of a Barrier Beach Management Plan prepared by the Woods Hole Group for the Town of Westport. This plan covers East Beach, the beach near the Knubble, and the beach along Atlantic Avenue, including all of ERBC's beach property. The plan includes best practices for preserving these vital barrier beaches. One important issue that arose is the regulation of dogs on the beach. While dogs will continue to be allowed outside of regular club hours, they must be leashed between April 1st and August 31st to protect nesting wildlife. Non-compliance could lead us to impose a full ban on dogs during these months.
- We are working to enhance our website and improve communication with members via email. We already have many member email addresses on file but will be confirming and collecting more in the coming months. Please keep an eye out for further communication about this. You can help us get ahead on this initiative by sending an e-mail to [erbcbookkeeping@gmail.com](mailto:erbcbookkeeping@gmail.com) to confirm your e-mail address

- We are undertaking a couple of significant but necessary maintenance projects on the pavilion, including replacement of the galvanized bolts that attach the pavilion structure to the pilings in the sand below. We expect the work to be completed before the beginning of the season.
- There are no major updates on our fresh water supply at this time. While the Westport Harbor Water Association's (WHWA) new water source on River Road looks promising, we have not yet received cost estimates for accessing this new supply. Please know that ERBC is continuing to challenge WHWA's cost assessment methodology, as it currently results in ERBC paying three times the amount of a typical system member, despite our water usage being comparable to an average household.

Our opening day for the 2026 season will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, with a "soft" opening the preceding weekend. During this time, parking passes will be available, and our staff will be on-site preparing for the season. We're also excited to announce that the "Rays and Waves for Kara Annual Family Day" will take place on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> to take advantage of favorable tides. Our Annual Meeting will be held on the same date. Additionally, we will be extending our season until the weekend following Labor Day, as the extended season was a big hit last year. For more information on our calendar and programs (including Child ID's), please visit our website at [www.elephantrockbeachclub.com](http://www.elephantrockbeachclub.com).

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at the email address below. I look forward to seeing everyone on the beach this summer!

Ralph Derbyshire  
President

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