

My name is Karen Wackerman. I feel I am best suited to represent the voters in the Fairfield Beach area for a number of reasons. I have lived in this area for 11 years, so I'm very familiar with issues and concerns of the beach residents. I have been on the RTM for 8 years (including as Moderator and as Majority Leader), and as a result I am knowledgeable about the workings of the RTM and the town government and can "hit the ground running" as soon as I am reelected. Finally, the beach area has some very specific concerns and I will advocate for their resolution.

Specifically, I feel the issues of greatest concern to the FBRA membership are coastal resilience, street safety, the fill pile and taxes. If elected, I intend to address them in the following manner:

1. I will press the town administration to have the coastal resiliency study that was promised last spring completed as soon as possible and the results woven into any work done on the Penfield Pavilion work. The issue of coastal resiliency in the face of the effects of global warming is of critical importance to residents in the beach area and to the town of Fairfield generally. The town needs to continually study this and work to maintain our beautiful shoreline.

2. One of the best characteristics of the beach area is the ability to walk and bike in those beautiful neighborhoods. But the streets in this area can become extremely busy in the summer season and pose a danger to pedestrians and bicyclists. The FBRA neighborhood, as well as the entire town, needs assurance that the town will make its streets accessible to and safe for all users - bicyclists, walkers, disabled people, etc. as well as vehicles. That is why I support the proposed street safety ordinance put forth by Rep. Bill Gerber and will be proud to vote in favor of it at the October meeting of the RTM.

3. The fill pile, a terrible blight on our town and something that the FBRA members have had to deal with for years, needs to finally be cleaned up as soon as possible. It is a complex process to accomplish that, but it is taking an unreasonably long time. I will press the administration for continual updates and explanations for the delay in remediation of the pile.

4. Taxes are always a concern to Fairfield residents, and the beach area has seen some significant increases. I support fiscally responsible management of the town and all efforts to keep tax increases to a minimum while supporting Fairfield's schools, parks, beaches and other aspects of the town that make it such a wonderful place in which to live.

Please email or call me with any questions or to discuss any town issues. I hope I can earn your vote on November 7!

Karen