

## **WWBC RESPONSE TO THE MAYOR'S PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE WWBC WITH NYS POOL MANAGEMENT TO OPERATE THE WEE WAH BEACH IN 2022**

The WWBC Executive Board has reviewed both the Mayor's Letter regarding the WWBC Operations for 2022 and his recommended "winning" proposal from NYS Pool Management. While we think that there is some merit to the proposal we feel that in its current form the NYS Pool Management Proposal will result in increased fees for members with both a decrease in service. Our rationale is as follows:

### **Staffing:**

**NYS Pool:** The proposal is for \$30,950 for 1 life guard weekdays and 2 lifeguards on weekends. NO OTHER STAFF IS INCLUDED.

**WWBC:** The WWBC staffs the beach with 3 people for most shifts (checker, COVID Monitor/Beach Manager and 1 lifeguard).

### **Issues:**

- WWBC believes that it is not safe to have only one employee on duty. This is because it is the position of the NYS Department of Health that the Lifeguard cannot take his or her eyes off the water to do anything (including checking badges) when there are swimmer's in the water.
- WWBC does not believe that it is possible to have the Lifeguard undertake all of the duties required to operate the club on a daily basis and ensure that our swimmers are adequately supervised (see more below).
- The Safety Plan currently in place also mandates that there be at least 2 employees on duty when the water is open.
- The mayor's letter seems to indicate that the Beach Club Hours will be 9 – 8 but swimming will only commence at 1pm. It does not appear that the WW will be staffed prior to the life guard coming on duty at 1pm, if this is the case how does the Mayor propose enforcing the no swimming prior to 1 pm?

### **Responsibilities of Staff:**

**NYS Pool:** The NYS Pool proposal states that the lifeguard will be responsible for both lifeguarding and the following additional tasks:

- Take down the flag each evening
  - Wipe down the tables and chairs
  - Maintain grounds and keep them free from garbage and debris
  - Maintain all records in accordance with State Sanitation Codes
  - Ensure that all pertinent information (certifications, emergency procedures, etc.) is visible and available for review
  - Place out rope divider lines and floating wood swimming platform in lake
  - Place all safety equipment out at lifeguard chair (spine board, first aid, rescue tube, etc.)
  - Clean and restock bathrooms daily
  - Open facility promptly
  - Actively supervise patrons and enforce facility rules and regulations
  - Perform rescues and provide care as necessary
  - Check to see that all residents and guests are wearing badges, or proof of membership upon entrance to lake area and make random checks throughout the day
  - Close the facility promptly, return all equipment to proper storage area, and secure all entrances
- Please note: ***Lifeguards will not be permitted to perform any***

***duties that will interfere with their ability to supervise patrons (one or more) in the lake or beach area.***

**WWBC:** The WWBC had 2 – 3 employees responsible for the beach at all times, lifeguards were expected to focus primarily on patrolling the waterfront as a lifeguard MUST be at the waterfront at all times when the water is open and cannot be allocated to these other tasks. The Checker and Beach Cub Manager handled the other tasks set forth above.

**Issues:**

- We believe that the tasks that NYS Pool is allocating to one lifeguard are not only unsafe but unrealistic. We cannot expect the lifeguard to also clean the tables, bathrooms, check badges, deal with guest registration and guest passes, and ensure that the rules such as the “carry in-carry out” rule are being followed. This will either result in a waterfront issue or a beach that is not properly cleaned and maintained on a day to day basis.
- One lifeguard is not enough to keep the beach in a clean and presentable condition. The Village will have to hire people to rake the beach; clean the park and playground area; ensure COVID guidelines (if any) are being followed; ensure trash is packed in and out; ensure members and guests are checking in and, ensure that the rules are being followed. All of which will require the Village to hire additional personal to ensure these are done.

**Additional Finances/Costs (non-staff issues):**

**NYS Pools:** The Village is responsible for the costs of all equipment, including but not limited to: lifeguard chairs, first aid kits, rescue equipment, umbrellas, ropes, raft, guest pass system, diving board, playground equipment, maintaining the beach and the picnic tables and grills, sand and permit fees. These are all additional costs which are not factored into the proposal.

**WWBC:** The WWBC already owns lifeguard chair and umbrella, firsts aid kits, rescue equipment, ropes and raft. There is no additional cost to the village for these items when the WWBC operates the beach.

**Membership Fees:**

**Mayor’s Proposal:** Under the Mayor’s proposal there will not just an increase in base fees (the average family membership is now over \$300 for the season) but there is a significant increase in guest pass fees. Guest pass fees are now \$25 per person. The average family membership under the Mayor’s proposal (Family membership plus 10 guest passes plus \$20 fee for the electronic gate) will cost \$565. In addition, there is no mechanism for family or household add-ons, no membership for singles and the Sr. Citizens’ membership appears to be per person, not per household. Also members will not be able to have more than 10 guests per summer.

**WWBC:** Under the WWBC membership the same average family would pay \$345 (\$295 for the family membership and \$50 for 10 guest passes).

**Other:**

**Insurance & Indemnification:** There is nothing in this proposal that mandates that NYS Pool carry insurance. Moreover, the Village is providing a full indemnification to NYS Pool for everything except gross negligence. We are unclear how no liability insurance is being required to be held by NYS Pool and why the taxpayers are essentially accepting full responsibility for NYS Pool actions under the proposal. In fact NYS Pool should be indemnifying the village for any employment issues, worker's comp or other issues caused by NYS Pool.

**Beach Improvements:** Nothing in the Mayor's letter or proposal addresses the issue of capital improvements which was the cornerstone of the Mayor's efforts to transition the WWBC operations from the WWBC to the Village. Nowhere in the Committee report, or the Mayor's letter, was this addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

Wee Wah Beach Club  
Founded in 1937