

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 21st, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)**

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on March 21st, 2022.

Members participating were Kate Bauer Burke, Joanne Gustin, Jon Dykstra, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Paul Hogan, Ed Hutchins

*1. Call to Order – Roll Call*

Chairman Kate Burke called the meeting to order, performed a roll call of all members of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee and confirmed a quorum.

Mr. Hogan confirmed with the videographer there are 10 additional attendees for tonight's meeting along with the panelists.

*2. Approval of Minutes February 21, 2022 meeting*

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

*3. Communication Subcommittee Update*

*a. Creation of Beach Webpage*

After submitting Ms. Connie Dykstra's presentation to the Town Manager, Ms. Burke informed the Committee the town is moving ahead with implementing the suggestions in said presentation.

*b. Signage*

Ms. Burke announced this item is still being worked on and any discussion has been deferred until the next meeting.

*4. Traffic & Safety Subcommittee Report and Recommendations – discussion of BOS concerns*

In reference to the last Board of Selectmen's meeting, Ms. Burke stated the recommendation forwarded from this Committee received a lot of discussion regarding the enforcement of the town's parking ordinance as it relates to landscaping contractors.

Mr. Hutchins explained his position on this issue has remained the same in that the ordinance should be enforced.

Mr. Dykstra suggesting separating out the parking issue from the other items the Committee requested from their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen along with considering establishing a new ordinance that would deal specifically with this type of parking issue.

Mr. Hutchins emphasized that first and foremost this is public safety issue and not a grudge with landscapers.

A lengthy conversation among the Committee members followed and a consensus was reached that the Committee members did not need to take any further action on the matter presently.

Mr. Engel and Ms. Burke agreed to try to attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

*5. Natural Resources Subcommittee Report*

Ms. Sherman informed the Committee plovers have been spotted in New Jersey and will be arriving soon in the area. Ms. Sherman also reported there has been an applicant interested in the Volunteer Plover Coordinator position and the town is hopeful the position will be filled for the coming season.

Mr. Dykstra reported the water testing has been funded at the same level this coming year as in previous years and they intend to expand the areas to be tested to higher up into the watershed to determine if the bacteria coming into the marsh is from the fresh water source. Mr. Hogan added that moving the testing upstream is partly in anticipation of obtaining possible grant funding in the future.

Mr. Hogan then addressed the subject of scheduling the next beach cleanup days which includes removal of invasive species, staking and twining of the dune grasses, and kayak rack placement.

After some discussion, the Committee members agreed to install the stakes and twine for the dunegrass on May 14<sup>th</sup>, install the kayak racks on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00p.m., and hold the beach cleanup and invasives removal on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen for funds up to \$400 to be spent on the costs for staking, twining, and signs in preparation for the summer. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Lastly, Mr. Hogan noted at the last meeting the Committee discussed possibility of mapping the dunes, specifically their location, elevation, depth, etc. in order to aid in our efforts to preserve them. After speaking with the town offices, in particular with Eli Rubin, Kennebunkport's Community Planner, the town has purchased a license for software called Drone To Map that would be added to the town's GIS program. Mr. Hogan explained the is roughly \$1,500 for the software plus the cost of the drone.

Mr. Hutchins made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen to spend \$2,000 to fund the drone GIS mapping program. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

#### *6. Overnight Parking*

Ms. Burke asked the Committee for their opinions on whether a recommendation should be made to the Board of Selectmen on prohibiting overnight parking along the beach. Ms. Burke also offered that neighboring towns, Wells, Biddeford, and York all have overnight beach parking bans in place.

Mr. Hutchins added that the Police Chief and the Town Manager are prepared to present this proposal to the Board of Selectmen and wanted to make sure the Beach Advisory Committee is in favor of this as well. Mr. Hutchins further explained the rationale behind this proposal is that there is a finite number of parking spaces at the beach as Part of the Beach Use Agreement and there has been discussion in the past that people are using these spaces as their own personal overflow and parking their vehicles there overnight to ensure space on their own property.

After much discussion amongst the Committee members, it was decided there doesn't appear to be a huge problem of overnight parking presently and it is the recommendation of the Committee members to use this coming season as an observation period to see if there in issue with overnight parking.

Mr. Bill Van Benthuyssen of 23 Winter Harbor Road addressed the Committee to inform them there is concern of some about this issue and that he personally sees a handful of cars in the same spots all summer long.

#### *7. BAC Elections Reminder*

Ms. Burke reminded everyone whoever is interested in running for the at-large seat on the Beach Advisory Committee should be collecting the necessary signatures to submit to the town offices and the other open positions (2 beachfront and 1 backlot) will be decided after the May election. Ballots will be sent out on May 1st to be collected by the Town Clerk by May 18<sup>th</sup> and the at large seat will be determined by the June 14<sup>th</sup> town election, Ms. Burke explained.

Noting the Zoom format has been most advantageous for the Beach Advisory Committee meetings, Ms. Burke asked the Town Manager if the Committee meetings could remain on Zoom even if the town resumes with in person meetings. Ms. Burke said the town was working on a possible hybrid format for the future.

#### *8. Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda*

There were no comments from the viewing audience.

#### *9. Other Business*

Ms. Burke announced the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and will most likely be on Zoom.

#### *10. Adjourn*