

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**May 16th, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)**

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on May 16th, 2022.

Members participating were Kate Bauer Burke, Carol Sherman, Joanne Gustin, Paul Hogan, Ed Hutchins

*1. Call to Order – Roll Call*

Ms. Burke performed a roll call and confirmed a quorum of 5 members of the Committee.

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

Ms. Gustin made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

*3. Communication Subcommittee Update*

Ms. Burke stated the town website has been updated with the changes discussed at previous meetings regarding having a separate webpage for more user-friendly information on the beach such as a Frequently Asked Questions section, and other items on visiting the beach. The town's Committee webpage will contain more Committee-specific items along with agendas, and all legal information regarding the beach. Ms. Burke added the two webpages are still a work in progress and will continue to work with the town staff to keep things updated.

Regarding the other issue the subcommittee is working on, Ms. Burke stated a lot of work continues to develop on the consolidation of beach signage and will continue to be worked on in the near future but will most likely not have any new signage for the beach this summer.

Ms. Gustin reported the Constant Contact email notices are continued to be used but will be sending out a notice or two that it will be eliminated in the future when the town's website upgrade is complete and there is a more efficient notification process available by the town.

Although both members' terms of service are due to expire, Ms. Burke and Ms. Gustin agreed to continue working with the Communications Subcommittee in the future.

Ms. Burke also noted the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page continues to provide timely photos and updates and is another effective way of communicating to the greater beach community.

*4. Natural Resources Subcommittee Report*

Ms. Sherman reported there currently 137 pairs of plovers in the State of Maine as of May 13<sup>th</sup> with 80 active nests. The common terns are also starting to arrive in the state. Goose Rocks Beach has 11 pairs of plovers and looks like this year will be another record year, Ms. Sherman added. Also of note, Ms. Sherman informed the Committee Ms. Kailey Potter, a UNE student will be the Shorebird Volunteer Coordinator and will start in June.

Ms. Sherman also wanted to remind folks that dogs must be on a leash at all times and asked neighbors to keep your cats inside during the plover season.

Mr. Hogan reported this past Saturday there were 18-20 people who helped with the beach cleanup, and with staking and putting twine out to mark the dune grass areas. Mr. Hogan thanked all those who volunteered their time.

Mr. Hogan also noted he was approached by a gentleman who was concerned over where the grass edge was and where he stored his dinghy and if the high tide would wash his boat away. Mr. Hogan suggested perhaps some metal posts for tie-ups could be installed in the Dinghy Point area.

Ms. Burke also noted there may be a need to purchase more signs to mark off the dune areas on the beach. A brief discussion on the use of mushroom anchors, chains or rope, and shackles should be used for folks to tie their dinghies to, and the cost of the supplies occurred amongst the Committee members and Mr. Dykstra. It was agreed that the remainder of the approved \$400 for the beach cleanup would be used to purchase additional signs to mark off the dunes. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Dykstra

volunteered to investigate how much money, if any, would be needed to install some mechanism for folks to tie up their dinghies at the west end of the beach on Dinghy Point.

Mr. Dykstra gave an update on using drones to map the dunes and reported the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has agreed to purchase the software that could take the imagery to map the area and build 3D models. The software purchase will not occur immediately, Mr. Dykstra explained but the collection of the images could be done now and processed later.

Mr. Dykstra gave a demonstration of the images that can be obtained by using drones to map the dunes and coastline and shared some of those images on the screen for the live viewing audience.

There was a brief discussion on the images shown, other features of the mapping software and the cost benefit of having a non-profit such as the Conservation Trust purchase the software instead of the town.

Ms. Sherman commented to Mr. Dykstra it would be most beneficial when utilizing the drones to conduct the mapping that the Trust and town consult with the Maine Audubon Society to make sure no protected species are disturbed.

In response to an email inquiry, Mr. Hogan informed the Committee that the town's Handicapped wheelchair that was vandalized last year is not repairable. The Recreation Department has two wheelchairs that can be reserved using the Recreation Department's webpage at [www.kennebunkportme.myrec.com](http://www.kennebunkportme.myrec.com) and the chairs are stored at the Tides Inn.

Ms. Burke also asked folks to not leave their flip flops or other beach items on the mat at the Handicapped Ramp as that entrance needs to be kept clear so folks who need to use that entrance can access the beach.

#### *5. BAC Elections Reminder*

Ms. Burke reminded folks there are 4 openings on the Beach Advisory Committee. One opening is the At-Large seat that will be determined by the town election on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The other 3 seats are 1 backlot seat and two beachfront seats. The deadline to send your ballot into the town offices is May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

Ms. Burke asked if there were any questions or comments from the viewing audience.

Ms. Gail Danckert of Norwood Lane asked if there would be any discussion on the travel advisory on Kings Highway tonight. Ms. Burke responded there is no update from the Traffic and Safety Subcommittee as they have already sent forward some recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Hogan commented he found a report issued by the Police Chief from 8 years ago regarding speed and traffic in the beach area and offered to forward that report to Mr. Engel to be reviewed at his next Subcommittee meeting.

At the request of another audience member's inquiry, the Committee members had a brief discussion about enforcement of the dog leash laws at the beach.

#### *7. Other Business*

In the latest town newsletter, Ms. Burke stated the information on the Goose Rocks Beach Dog Rules were unfortunately inaccurate and the town has corrected that error on their website. The Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page and other communications from this Committee have issued the correct information and asked visitors to the beach to please have their dogs on a leash.

#### *8. Adjourn*