

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
June 20th, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting (In Person and Via Zoom)

A meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on June 20th, 2022 at the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station and via Zoom.

Members participating were Carol Sherman, Paul Hogan (via Zoom), Ed Hutchins (via Zoom), Thomas Ferrara, Paul Hayes, Pam Czekanski, Fred Stafford.

1. Call to Order – Roll Call.

Ms. Sherman performed a roll call, confirmed a quorum, and announced there are 7 additional attendees for tonight's meeting.

2. Introduction of new members.

Ms. Sherman asked each of the new members to the Committee to introduce themselves and provide a little background of their association with Goose Rocks Beach. The new members to the Committee are Pam Czekanski, Tom Ferrara, Paul Hayes, and Fred Stafford.

3. Approval of the minutes.

Attendees of the last Beach Advisory Committee meeting were Kate Burke, Carol Sherman, Joanne Gustin, Paul Hogan, and Ed Hutchins. Only those in attendance are eligible to approve the minutes for that meeting. Both Ms. Burke and Ms. Gustin emailed their approval of the May 16th, 2022 Beach Advisory Committee meeting minutes to Ms. Sherman. Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve said minutes. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous with a vote 5-0.

4. Comments from public re: any item not on the agenda.

As the newly elected Chair of the Beach Advisory Committee, Mr. Hogan took over as moderator of the meeting and asked if there were any comments from the public on matters not on the agenda.

Mr. Dan Dicesare of 904 Kings Highway addressed the Committee to suggest a sign be placed at Dinghy Point that says "Carry in/Carry out Only" or "No overnight storage" to prevent folks from leaving their beach equipment overnight at the beach. Mr. Hogan responded that is the rule for the entire beach and only those signers of the Beach Use Agreement are allowed to store items within their 25-foot area or grant permission for others to keep items within that same 25-foot area. Mr. Hogan also stated if there are things left on the beach, Kennebunkport Police Chief Sanford suggested people call the non-emergency police number which is 967-2454 and report it to them as they have a protocol to tag unclaimed equipment. Mr. Hogan also reminded folks that kayaks and boats are permitted to be stored on Dinghy Point if they are not on the dune grass.

Mr. Hogan added this is something the Communications Sub-Committee can investigate for the future.

Ms. Kate Burke called in to the meeting to comment that under the Beach Use Agreement Dinghy Point is exempt from the ban of overnight boat storage and questioned what is happening there now is beyond the original intent to allow those people with boats on moorings to store their dinghies on the beach.

Mr. Hutchins explained the Board of Selectmen voted to allow storage on Dinghy Point and when they did so they did not make any distinction to those who had boats at Goose Rocks Beach since it has been a traditional area where boats were stored. Mr. Hutchins also cautioned that the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee does not have the authority to tell people they cannot put their watercraft there at this point because the beach belongs to everyone.

5. Nominations and election of officers.

Ms. Czekanski nominated Mr. Paul Hogan as Chair of the Beach Advisory Committee. Ms. Sherman seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Sherman nominated Ms. Pam Czekanski as Vice Chair of the Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Stafford seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Czekanski nominated Ms. Carol Sherman as Secretary of the Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Stafford seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous.

6. Committee Discussions and reports.

Ms. Sherman reported as of June 17th there were 150 plover chicks in Maine and Goose Rocks Beach has 7 chicks, 7 pairs of plovers with 8 active nests. Ms. Sherman also reported the least terns have arrived at the beach as well.

Mr. Hogan listed the three most recent sub-committees and gave a brief description of each one. Mr. Hogan then asked if there were any members of the Committee who wished to participate on one of the sub-committees which are: Communications, Public Safety & Traffic, and Natural Resources.

After some discussion, the Committee members agreed to keep the same sub-committees and indicated which one each member would like to serve on.

Ms. Czekanski and Mr. Stafford would like to participate on the Communications Sub-Committee.

Mr. Engel and Mr. Ferrara would like to participate on the Public Safety & Traffic Sub-Committee.

Mr. Hogan will continue to serve on the Natural Resources Sub-Committee and Mr. Hayes expressed interest in joining.

Mr. Hutchins also announced that Mr. Jon Dykstra will attend the next meeting as the Selectmen Representative since Mr. Hutchins was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and will be unable to attend Beach Advisory Committee meetings.

Regarding the Natural Resources Sub-Committee work, Mr. Hogan reported Mr. Dykstra began the process of mapping the dunes at the beach in the hope, with the aid of some software, to determine where the erosion is occurring and how and where to rebuild it.

As for the Public Safety & Traffic Sub-Committee, Mr. Hogan stated he provided a copy of a report compiled 8 or 10 years ago by the Police Department on speed in the town, particularly on New Biddeford Road and it showed the percentage of traffic was traveling below or at the speed limit. Mr. Hogan suggested the Sub-Committee could ask the Police Chief to do a similar study again in other locations at the beach.

Mr. Hutchins noted the Board of Selectmen recently approved \$20,000 to purchase speed signs like those in Kennebunk to alert drivers who are speeding.

Mr. Engel agreed to contact the Police Chief to gather more details on having another study and report done.

Ms. Sherman asked all the new Committee members to provide her with phone and email information to update their contact list.

7. Review report from Chief Sanford

Referring to an email sent from Police Chief Sanford, Mr. Hogan reported the Department is again facing staffing challenges for summer safety patrol officers but will have coverage for key times at the beach in particular early mornings and late evening when dogs are allowed on the beach on leashes only. Mr. Hogan shared the non-emergency Police phone number of 967-2454 and asked folks if you see something, say something.

8. Set the summer meeting calendar, locations, and format.

After some discussion among the Committee members, a consensus was reached to try to hold the July meeting at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire House so more members of the Beach community may attend. Town videographer Dave Powell informed the Committee that if a meeting is held at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire House, it will not be able to also be broadcast live on Zoom but can be recorded and uploaded to the town website.

Tentative guest speakers for the summer meetings were agreed upon to be Dr. Pam Morgan, UNE professor to speak on wetlands and ecology for the July meeting, and Mr. Ed Hutchins offered to speak at the August meeting on lobstering.

Mr. Hogan announced the dates for the next Committee meetings will be July 18th and August 15th, 2022.

9. New business.

Ms. Sherman wished to acknowledge the town workers who did a wonderful job removing invasive plants at the intersection of Kings Highway and Dyke Road.

Mr. Hogan also commented he wanted to thank all the volunteers in the Maine Healthy Beaches program and the Beach Profiling program. Mr. Hogan added he will acknowledge those volunteers more specifically at the July meeting.

Ms. Sherman also expressed her gratitude to Dave Powell and Mike Davis, the town videographers for all their assistance.

10. Adjournment.