

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
October 17th, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM
Village Fire Station Meeting Room, 32 North Street, Kennebunkport

A meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on October 17th, 2022.

Members participating were Paul Hogan, Pam Czekanski, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Jon Dykstra, and Fred Stafford was attending via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hogan called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum. The videographer confirmed there are 8 attendees on Zoom for tonight's meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15th, 2022 Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Czekanski seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public comments for items not on agenda

Mr. Hogan asked if there were any comments from the audience in attendance.

Mr. Richard Driver addressed the Committee to ask if the Committee members knew of any pending application with the Planning Board from the owners of Ocean Woods Resort. Mr. Driver expressed concern about the Ocean Woods Resort webpage advertising they will be open for business in 2023 and the impact that will have on Goose Rocks Beach. Mr. Dykstra responded he does not know of any pending applications from Ocean Woods Resort to the Planning Board at this time.

There were no further comments or questions from the audience in attendance or on Zoom.

4. Committee reports

Mr. Engel gave a brief update on the Traffic and Safety Sub-Committee stating his appreciation to Chief Sanford who conducted several traffic studies on Dyke Road and Kings Highway. Some information obtained from those traffic studies were:

- In all 4 locations there was less than 1% of traffic that would have been enforceable by law enforcement.
- Dyke Road for 4/5 day period had roughly 24,000 cars going back/forth
- New Biddeford Road had 8,000 for 4- or 5-day period
- West end testing period was Friday to Wednesday the weekend prior to Labor Day and found 9,700 cars were reported traveling.

Mr. Engel added this information is helpful to establish a benchmark.

Mr. Engel also mentioned the striping that was supposed to be done in June has been delayed and should be done in October.

Regarding the contractors and landscapers working at the beach, Mr. Engel reported several landscapers cooperated and parked in the driveways of their customers rather than taking up parking spaces on the street. This was an improvement from year's past.

Mr. Stafford reported on the Communications Sub-Committee stating he received an email from Laurie Smith, the Town Manager and will set up a meeting with her and Police Chief Sanford for next week to discuss reducing the number of signs at the beach and try to eliminate anything on the current collection of signs that isn't enforced. Mr. Stafford also noted the idea would be to put as much as possible on one sign at each of the major public entrances and possibly have an interchangeable panel on the signs for the dog rules similar in design to that of the water quality signs.

Mr. Dykstra expressed his approval of having an interchangeable sign for the dog rules and cautioned against eliminating information that could hinder the Police Department role in enforcement.

In the discussions regarding the signs, Mr. Hogan suggested deciding what information should go on the sign, what information should be contained in the QR code and what information should be included in the brochures and if the brochures

should even be continued. Mr. Hogan cautioned that careful attention needs to be given to the town ordinances currently in place, the Beach Use Agreement rules, and the obligations of the town.

For the Natural Resources Sub-Committee, Mr. Hogan reported the stakes/twine have been removed and stored for the winter and the kayak racks are back at the Trust for storage and thanked all those who helped with that project.

Mr. Dykstra gave an update on taking photos of the beach to measure dune loss and dune growth. They took photos in the spring and will try to take photos again in late November.

Ms. Sherman gave the Maine Audubon report on the piping plovers stating the State of Maine had 140 pairs nesting on beaches this year fledging 252 chicks which is up from previous years. Goose Rocks Beach fledged 24 chicks. The least terns did not do as well with only 40 fledglings produced this season and Goose Rocks Beach did not have any nesting pairs.

5. *Old Business*

a. Follow-up on questions regarding unauthorized storage of gear on the beach

i) Removal of unauthorized property on town property (the beach)

Mr. Hogan reported there have been conversations with the Town Manager and Police Chief on what to do with all the boats, chairs, umbrellas, etc. that are left on the beach. Mr. Dykstra explained the principal concern is the continuing complication of how to know which material is able to be there under the Beach Use Agreement and which is not. Mr. Dykstra added the question the Committee should be asking itself is it appropriate for Goose Rocks Beach to be a place where people store their watercraft.

There was a discussion on this subject with the Committee members who concluded that a sub-committee should be formed to determine if an ordinance change should be made to allow only dinghies be allowed to be stored at Dinghy Point. Ms. Sherman, Ms. Czekanski, Mr. Dykstra, and Mr. Stafford all agreed to assist with the Sub-Committee.

Mr. Hogan reminded everyone that if more than 2 members of the Beach Advisory Committee are meeting on this topic or any other matter, the town offices need to be notified so they can make the meeting known to the public in advance.

ii) Follow-up on Tides issues (re: drop-offs, taking of wide area of the beach for chairs)

Mr. Dykstra reported after speaking with the Town Manager, he learned there is no special arrangement or written agreement with the owners of the Tides Inn to permit them to shuttle customers of Hidden Pond Resort to the Tides Inn to use the beach.

Mr. Hogan also noted the Tides Inn has changed their practices and have been putting out 50 chairs first thing in the morning instead of just when guests are using them and have extended their area when they place the chairs to the property next to them.

6. *New Business*

a. Request for access walkway at Broadway Avenue

Mr. Hogan reported a request has been made that a handicapped access pathway be added at the Broadway Avenue entrance and the town public works department looked at that area and decided it could not be made ADA compliant due to the narrowness of the entrance. To widen the entrance would require a permit from the Maine DEP which discourages having straight paths to the beach and any widening of natural paths.

The Committee members had a lengthy discussion on this subject and decided it was not possible to widen that entrance. Ms. Sherman will notify the resident about the Committee's discussion.

Mr. Hogan agreed to perform a survey of all the entrances at the beach to determine if another entrance would be suitable to be converted to a handicapped entrance with designated handicapped parking at that entrance.

b. Board vacancy

Mr. Hogan reported a beachfront member of the Committee resigned recently and there is no protocol outlining how that position can be filled in the Committee's governing documentation. The Town Manager

informed Mr. Hogan that after speaking with Town Counsel the Board of Selectmen could appoint someone to fill the position on an interim basis until next June when the elections are held.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Hogan made a recommendation to ask the town to appoint a person to fill the vacancy after advice from this Committee on their suggestion of a candidate. Mr. Dykstra seconded the recommendation, and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation.

c. Status Report from Chief Sanford

Reports were submitted to the Committee from Police Chief Sanford and Town Manager Laurie Smith. Mr. Hogan reported the following items of note:

- This year's income from parking stickers was \$268,535 consisting of \$17,435 in resident stickers, \$170,700 in daily stickers, and weekly stickers were \$39,000.
- Seasonal stickers brought in \$41,000.
- Total stickers purchased were 10,912.
- In 2021 total revenue was \$219,000, in 2020 that amount was \$169,300 and in 2019 it was \$195,325.
- Parking violations this year increased to 736 from 637 in 2021, 885 in 2020, and 941 in 2019.
- Dog violations this year totaled 35, 21 in 2021, 38 in 2020, 9 in 2019 and 19 in 2018.
- There was 1 fireworks violation issued this year no violations for beach fires.
- Warning tags issued this year on the beach were 86 versus 47 issued last year.

d. Other

There were no further comments or questions from the Committee members or audience members in attendance or via Zoom.

7. Set dates for November – May meetings.

After some discussion, possible meeting dates were decided to be November 21st, 2022, January 23rd, 2023, March 20th, 2023 and May 15th, 2023. Mr. Hogan agreed to confirm those dates were acceptable with the town offices.

8. Adjournment