

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
January 30th, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM
Village Fire Station Meeting Room, 32 North Street, Kennebunkport

A meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on January 30th, 2023.

Members participating were Paul Hogan, Pam Czekanski, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Jon Dykstra, Fred Stafford

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hogan called the meeting to order and confirmed with the videographer there are 28 attendees on Zoom.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2022 Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting. The motion was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Discussion and Consideration of Changes to Beach Rules regarding overnight storage on the beach (Full document available on the town website).

Mr. Hogan explained the role of this committee under the Beach Use Agreement and Ordinance is to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding beach rules, etc. This Committee does not have the authority to pass a new Ordinance, Mr. Hogan added.

Mr. Jon Dykstra shared a PowerPoint presentation on the large screen and for the viewing audience, on the beach and dune evolution, the importance of dune grass, drone imagery showing dune loss, the Beach Advisory Committee's efforts to protect the vegetation and the results of those efforts leading up to tonight's discussion on this latest proposal.

Before opening up the meeting to the public, Mr. Hogan asked if any of the Committee members had comments.

Mr. Stafford responded this proposal does not prevent overnight storage for those folks that have a mooring and store their kayak or dinghy at Dinghy Point.

Mr. Hogan commented he was sent a message earlier today noting it isn't practical for someone who has mooring at the west end of the beach to row from Dinghy Point to the east end to store their kayak. Mr. Stafford responded this proposal does not involve those folks that have a mooring and store their kayak or dinghy at Dinghy Point.

Mr. Hogan opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Todd Chisholm of 530 Kings Highway asked how the tags would work for those non-ocean front homeowners who have a mooring at Goose Rocks Beach. Mr. Hogan clarified the suggestion is to have the tags for the kayaks go along with all mooring holders. Mr. Dykstra added that anything in this proposal really wouldn't change the legality of where Mr. Chisholm is leaving his dinghy today.

Ms. Ann Corbey, a backlot owner addressed the Committee and asked if there were any safe places for storage racks where they would be protected and away from any damage from storms and the dunes. Ms. Corbey also offered her opinion that she is against an "all or nothing approach" to this issue.

Pat Sausa, another backlot owner, agreed with Ms. Corbey's statements adding once the storage racks were installed it opened the door for people to leave all sorts of items on the beach.

A brief discussion occurred on the proposed number of stickers provided to each property owner.

Mr. Chisholm commented he was extremely surprised by the number of kayaks at the beach and wondered how many of them were from those who only came up to the beach on the weekends. Mr. Chisholm also suggested structuring the proposed kayak tag system similar to the mooring application process that happens annually.

Ms. Kate Bauer Burke of Summer Breeze Lane addressed the Committee to voice 2 points of concern: 1.) it is not a time-honored tradition to leave things on the beach overnight, and 2.) the experiment of the kayak racks has shown that people

will take advantage of it and leave all sorts of items under their kayak. Ms. Burke expressed her support of the Committee's proposal.

Mr. Hogan asked to take some comments from folks participating through Zoom.

Several discussions occurred with the remote audience and the Committee members on the process of issuing tags for kayaks, the Community Safety Officers' duties, the additional costs of this proposal, and the intended and unintended consequences of this proposal.

There was also some discussion with the audience members in person and on Zoom about the communication piece to this, or any new proposal, and the potential for an enormous amount of anger in the community as whole.

Another concern brought before the Committee is the potential for increased traffic jams caused by folks loading/unloading their kayaks at the beach.

Mr. Bob Kember of Beaver Pond road addressed the Committee suggesting whatever is decided that it goes into affect next summer in order to have ample time to inform everyone of the rule changes at the beach.

More discussions continued with both audience members in person and on Zoom.

Mr. Hogan commented from his perspective the real issue is space on the beach is dwindling as we have a crowded beach at high tide for 8 weeks of the year.

After 2 hours of discussion, Mr. Hogan asked anyone who is interested in helping formulate a solution to this issue, please contact a Committee member with your suggestions, or email the Committee or bring your suggestions to the next meeting.

Ms. Sherman reminded everyone the Committee's email is grbadvisorycommittee@kennebunkportme.gov .

Before adjourning the Committee members all agreed to table this proposal and discuss it at their next meeting to be held possibly on February 27, 2023.

4. Adjournment