

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
October 16th, 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 October 16th, 2023.

Members participating in person were Pam Czekanski (Chair), Fred Stafford (Secretary), Carol Sherman, Paul Hogan, Jon Dykstra. Mr. Charles Cadwell participated via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Czekanski called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21st, 2023 Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Sherman seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public comments for items not on the agenda

Ms. Czekanski asked if anyone wished to discuss any items not on the agenda to please step forward to the microphone.

Mr. Stafford asked on behalf of Maureen Summers, what would it entail to have a handicapped mat placed at the Edgewood Avenue beach entrance to accommodate a new family that moved in the area with a child that has cerebral palsy. Mr. Hogan suggested the family should send a formal request to the Committee with details of their request. Mr. Stafford agreed to reach out to Ms. Summers.

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

4. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety

Mr. Engel is not present at tonight's meeting to provide an update so this item will be deferred to the next meeting.

b. Natural Resources

Mr. Hogan stated all the stakes and twine have been removed from the beach and due to the substantial rainfall, this summer, the twine had to be thrown away and will need to be replaced next year.

Another item the sub-committee discussed, Mr. Hogan stated was to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to hire a landscape architect to prepare a preventative design for the beach entrances, specifically at Edgewood Avenue, Belvedere Avenue, and Proctor Avenue, that have become channels during storms for sand and rocks to be washed up onto the road and other properties.

The Committee members and audience members had a detailed discussion on Mr. Hogan's proposal.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to ask for the Board of Selectmen's support to go forward with this project and get an estimate of the cost to redesign those entrances. Mr. Stafford seconded the motion. There was more discussion among the Committee members and the audience in attendance. The Committee members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Hogan also suggested perhaps the town could keep a folder of pamphlets from the Maine Geological Survey and the Department of Environmental Protection on storm restoration for folks who are interested.

One last item Mr. Hogan spoke about was the Conservation Commission's project to begin testing for pesticides this summer and asked Mr. Steve Hanna to provide some information to the Committee.

Mr. Steve Hanna addressed the Committee and gave a detailed report on the pesticide sampling program the Conservation Commission began this summer through funding from the town of \$5,000 to cover the cost of testing and analysis. Mr. Hanna explained the method, timing, and locations of the samples taken this summer which after analysis through a lab in Montana were found to contain 9 different pesticides. Because they have not exhausted all of the funds from the town, Mr. Hanna added they will continue to collect samples next spring as well.

c. Communications

There was no update on this agenda item.

5. Old Business

a. Summer CSO report

Ms. Czekanski reported in speaking with Chief Sanford he informed her the CSO's continue to be challenged in their work at the beach and asked if there has been any progress in the beachfront residents installing their street numbers on the oceanfront side of their homes to aid first responders. Ms. Sherman explained a letter from the Beach Advisory Committee was sent out to all beachfront property owners asking them to install their house number on the oceanside of their homes. Ms. Sherman reported the response has not been ideal and encouraged all beachfront homeowners to help the town's first responders by displaying their house number on the beach side of their home. The Committee members and audience members had a brief discussion on the subject.

b. Overnight Storage

Mr. Dykstra offered to have information on this agenda item at the next meeting.

c. Trash

Mr. Dykstra reported the new contract with our trash collection company is going to require the town move from a manual pick-up to an automated pick-up. Mr. Dykstra ran through the specifics of the town's Contract with Casella noting the switch to automated pick-up will begin in August of 2024 depending on when Casella has their new truck. Mr. Dykstra noted the following items in this new contract:

- The town has budgeted to purchase new bins for the automated pick-up.
- Each household will receive one recycling and one trash bin.
- There will be weekly recycling pick-up with the weekly trash pick-up.
- All items must be in the bins: any items left beside the bins will not be picked up.
- There will be no switch in the summer to Saturday pick-up at Goose Rocks Beach.
- Trash and recycling pick-up will remain on Fridays at the beach for the entire year.
- Casella has not changed their route in any way so if you have curbside pick-up now it will remain so with the new system.

Audience members in person and on Zoom had many questions regarding the new system. Mr. Dykstra explained the details have not been worked out as yet, but he will continue to provide updates.

A lengthy discussion occurred on removing the trash barrels at the beach entrances, converting to a carry in/carry out policy at Goose Rocks Beach, and the timing of all this to take place.

After much discussion, Ms. Sherman made a motion the Committee to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the town look into a carry in/carry out policy immediately, beginning January 1st, 2024. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

d. Commercial activity on the beach

Mr. Dykstra stated this item is continuing to move forward and is being pursued with the town officials but no more can be stated publicly as yet.

6. New Business

Ms. Czekanski asked if there were any items folks would like to see added to the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Dykstra offered to have an update on the water quality testing along with the overnight storage situation at the beach.

Mr. John Kraeuter asked if an update on the kayak situation could be added to the next meeting's agenda.

7. Next meeting change of date from December 18 to December 11

Ms. Czekanski announced due to a conflict with the meeting room, the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be on December 11th, 2023 and not their previously scheduled date of December 18th, 2023.

Next year's meetings are scheduled for March 18th, April 22nd, and May 20th, 2024.

8. Adjournment