

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ~ 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)**

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

Members participating were Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Carol Sherman, Joanne Gustin, Barry Engel, Paul Hogan, Jennifer Wasserman, Ed Hutchins

*1. Call to Order – Roll Call*

Chairman Kate Burke called the meeting to order and performed a roll call of all members of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee.

*2. Approval of minutes of November 15th, 2021 meeting.*

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve said minutes. Ms. Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a vote of 7-0-1. Ms. Gustin abstained from voting.

*3. Communication Subcommittee Report*

- *Creation of Beach Webpage*
- *Signage*

Ms. Burke announced this agenda item will not be discussed this evening as these items are still being worked on and will defer any report until the February Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting.

*4. Natural Resources Subcommittee Report*

- *Management Plan for Dune Grass Restoration and Preservation/Hay Bales*

Mr. Hogan provided an update to the Committee members on the following:

- Town confirmed sand can be replaced back onto the beach and as long as it is 3 inches or less it will not require a Permit By Rule from the Maine DEP.
- Hay bales have been placed at some entrances on the beach to try to mitigate storm damage with moderate success
- Town will decide if they want to continue using hay bales and will discuss with the Maine DEP as well.
- It's been noticed that a build-up of seaweed has also acted as a natural barrier along with the rocks to stop water from passing through.

*a. Update on Water Testing*

Mr. Dykstra gave an update on the water testing program, providing details on the EPA's grouping of all coastal areas including lakes, ponds, and streams into what they consider to be an impaired water body based on bacteria levels. Mr. Dykstra provided details on the determination and testing process adding the impaired status allows the town to apply for funding from the state to allow for some studies of the marsh areas. The studies, Mr. Dykstra continued, will help in determining the source of the bacteria.

- *Return of Sand to Beach After Storms*

Mr. Hogan provided a report on the annual activities that have taken place in hopes of preserving the dune grass and efforts to get sand back onto the beach after storms have pushed it inland. A copy of Mr. Hogan's report can be viewed on the town's website.

Mr. Hogan proposed the next step for the Natural Resources Subcommittee is to do some research on the cost of mapping to establish a baseline of the dune grasses to decide what to do as part of the beach clean-up and invasive clean-up in the Spring. Mr. Hogan also suggested the subcommittee contact a landscaper to help design a walkover of some kind.

*5. Traffic & Safety Subcommittee Report*

Mr. Engel gave a slide presentation on the Subcommittee's findings emphasizing the main purpose of this Subcommittee is to increase safety for all at the beach recognizing there has been an increase in the volume of traffic in and around the beach. A copy of Mr. Engel's presentation can be found on the town's website.

The Committee members had a detailed discussion on Mr. Engel's presentation specifically regarding the enforcement of the town's no parking rules on town streets.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the no parking ordinance rules be enforced at Goose Rocks Beach. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Burke made a suggestion the town consider repainting the 11 crosswalks starting at Dyke Road to make them more fun and noticeable: perhaps using bright colors or a stencil design. A brief discussion ensued on Ms. Burke's suggestion.

After some discussions amongst the Committee members, it was agreed to table the previous motion made regarding enforcement of the parking rules, and to continue discussions on this topic along with community input until the next meeting.

Ms. Roseanne Cook addressed the Committee asking them to not forget the New Biddeford Road area when discussing traffic and safety at the beach.

6. *BAC Elections*

Ms. Burke announced there are 3 seats up for election this coming Spring; 1 backlot seat and 2 beachfront seats. In April the town will send out information regarding the Beach Advisory Committee openings and ask all those interested in running to send in their paperwork by April 15<sup>th</sup>, after which the town will send out ballots, Ms. Burke explained.

7. *Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda*

Due to the late hour this item was postponed to the next meeting. Ms. Burke asked if any folks had questions or comments to please send those via email and they will be distributed out to the Committee members as appropriate.

8. *Other Business*

Ms. Burke explained the town and specifically the Beach Advisory Committee has received an offer from the Kennebunkport Resort Collection to sponsor a fireworks display off of Goose Rocks Beach either on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday or some other date in the summer. Mr. Justin Grimes, Managing Director of the KRC addressed the Committee to explain their proposal to have a fireworks display during the summer season and to answer any questions or concerns from the Committee members.

On behalf of the other Committee members, Ms. Burke explained there are some serious concerns involving fireworks at the beach and feel at this time it is not in the best interests of the community, environment, and public safety to host an event that would increase an already congested traffic area not to mention the danger of fire and disturbance of the protected wildlife. The Committee members agreed the offer of having fireworks at the beach should be declined.

9. *Future Meetings*

As agreed at the last meeting, the next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Ms. Sherman asked the Committee if they would agree to again approve the expenditure to pay for a piping plover volunteer coordinator for this coming season. Ms. Burke made a motion the town set aside up to \$3,000 to pay for a piping plover volunteer coordinator for this coming season. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

10. *Adjourn*