**Town of Kennebunkport**

**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee**

**32 North Street, Village Fire Station**

**Thursday, January 15th, 2015**

**6:30 PM Meeting Agenda**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 15th, 2015. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

*Members Present: Robert Sherman – Chairman, Margaret Barry, Beth Ramsey, Richard Driver, Mike Weston, Sheila Matthews-Bull, Katie Nixon & Paul Hogan (via teleconference), Town Manager, Laurie Smith*

*6:30 Call to Order: Bob Sherman, Chairman - affirms quorum*

Mr. Sherman affirmed the Committee had a quorum adding that Ms. Nixon and Mr. Hogan were participating via Facetime.

Mr. Sherman reminded those in attendance to please use the podium and state their name to address the Committee.

*Secretary’s Report: Beth Ramsey –Dec. 4, 2014 minutes*

Mr. Driver made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2014 meeting. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0 in approval. Mr. Weston did not attend that meeting and abstained from voting.

*Open floor to questions and comments from guests attending meeting*

There were no comments or questions from the audience in attendance at this time.

*Vote on Proposed Dog Rules for Goose Rocks Beach*

Ms. Barry made a motion to open the floor for discussion on the Proposed Dog Rules for Goose Rocks Beach. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Barbara Barwise suggested adding a statement that all service dogs are exempt from the Dog Rules. Mr. Driver made a motion to remove “(a)” in paragraph 3 to now read “Paragraph 1 does not apply to service dogs.” Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ken Rowe suggested adding to 1a wording that in the event no endangered species is found at the West End of the beach in a particular season that dogs would be allowed off leash like the rest of the beach. Committee members expressed their reservation and decided there was enough provision in place with the current wording to adapt in the future.

Mr. Bob Kemper requested an explanation of the 7:30-8:30 am on leash provision during the summer months. The reason is so that people who want to walk their dog in the morning on leash can have some time carved out when dogs will be leashed.

Mr. Weston made a motion to accept the Draft of Proposed Dog Rules as amended tonight. Mr. Sherman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Sherman asked the Town Manager to explain the next course of action for the Town and the Committee. Ms. Smith explained the Committee’s recommendation will go before the Board of Selectmen who will decide if any amendments are necessary. The Board of Selectmen will bring the proposed Ordinance change to the Town Attorney for any comment or language change which could then be put on a warrant for a town vote for the June Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Smith emphasized that the current ordinance remains in effect until another ordinance is passed.

Ms Carol Morris asked what citizens can do if the BOS does not put the new ordinance on the Warrant. Ms Smith responded that a citizen’s petition is an option.

*Report from Natural Resources Committee*

*Proposed Signage in Dune Areas*

Ms. Barry provided a sample of 3”x6” signs designed by Bethany Jordan to inform people about protecting the dune grass. The committee suggested adding “no dogs” and “no kayaks” on the same sign. Ms Barry will look into wording about Dune Protection/Restoration that conveys the proper message to beachgoers. Mr. Weston noted that the Conservation Trust has agreed to post these signs all along their property to remind beachgoers to stay off of the dune grass.

Mr. Driver made a motion to authorize the purchase of 100 signs. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Ms. Smith stated she would add this item to the Board of Selectmen’s Agenda.

*Information on Invasive Plants*

Ms. Barry reported that Tom Bradbury of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has asked the Beach Advisory Committee’s cooperation to co-sponsor an Invasive Species Removal Day scheduled for May 16th on Trust property. The Committee had a brief discussion of similar efforts in the past to rid the beach area of invasive species that were unsuccessful for the most part. Mr. Driver said that we need to know who is responsible for the rocks along Kings Highway. The Committee members agreed to support the project but asked Ms. Barry to collect more detailed information about co-sponsorship.

*Traffic and Safety*

Mr. Sherman applauded the Town for a great job modifying the handicapped parking space on Dyke Road.

*Chairman’s proposal for a Resolution*

Mr. Sherman gave a brief summary of his proposed Resolution to find a way to bring more signers to the BUA. Mr. Driver made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Sherman seconded the motion.

The Committee members, Ms. Matthews-Bull and Ms. Smith had a lengthy discussion regarding the Resolution, the opportunity for others to join the Beach Use Agreement and the pending litigation. After consideration, Mr. Sherman withdrew his second of Mr. Driver’s motion. The motion was dropped. Mr. Sherman offered the Committee’s assistance to reach a resolution amenable to all parties.

 *Establish dates for next BAC meetings:*

*1. February, 19 – if necessary*

*2. Thursday, March 24, 2015*

**Adjournment:**Amotion was made to adjourn, it was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**Submitted by:**Patricia Saunders, Recording Secretary