

**GOOSE ROCKS BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

A virtual meeting of the Beach Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Members participating were Richard Driver, Robert Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jim Mulvihill, Sheila Matthews-Bull, and Jen Wasserman.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Driver called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and explained that in order to ensure everyone who wishes to comment may do so, all members of the public will be limited to 2 minutes to speak.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2020 and March 30, 2020.

Upon motions duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the January 20, 2020 and March 30, 2020 meetings were approved by a vote of 7 ayes and 1 abstention. Ms. Matthews-Bull abstained from voting since she had not been present at the meetings.

3. Public Comments

Mr. Driver opened the meeting up for comments from the public on matters not on the agenda.

Parker Dwelley of 23 Sand Point Road suggested all future meetings of this Committee should be online in order for the population of beach homeowners who are not permanent residents of Maine to be able to participate year-round. Mr. Driver commented that the format of each town committee meeting is a municipal decision and not up to the committees themselves to decide and all meetings must be held in accordance with state law. Mr. Driver then gave a brief history of the Beach Advisory Committee and introduced each member in attendance this evening.

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

4. Dog Waste

Mr. Driver reminded those walking their dogs either on the beach or on the sidewalks to please be responsible and clean up after their pets.

5. GRB Brochure Changes

Mr. Driver stated in lieu of the normal brochure that is distributed every year at the beach, there will be a new brochure created as soon as the Board of Selectmen announce their plans on the phasing and restrictions for this season in response to the pandemic.

6. Dune Grass Project

After a brief discussion of the importance of protecting the dune grass on the beach and best methods of doing so, the Town Manager and the Committee agreed that public/private partnership in this effort would be desirable. The Town will provide the materials necessary to mark off the dune areas with stakes and

twine. The Committee will form a subcommittee (Ms. Wasserman, Mr. Sherman and Ms. Burke) to work with beachfront property owners and other volunteers to stake off the dune grass areas for protection.

7. Kayak Storage on the Beach

In response to trying to protect the dune grass, Mr. Driver stated it was suggested to ask people who store their kayaks overnight to put it parallel to the water on the beach instead of leaving them in the dune grass area. The Committee discussed other alternatives, including limiting or eliminating storage of kayaks, possible tagging and registration of kayaks, and the provisions of the Beach Use Agreement that apply. In general, the Committee followed Ms. Wasserman's suggestion that due to the short amount of time between now and the beginning of the beach season, the town just concentrate on roping off the dune grass and wait until next year to consider having some sort of registration process for kayak owners.

8. Funding for a Plover Coordinator

Ms. Carol Sherman presented a request for a \$3,000 expenditure for a Volunteer Coordinator who is responsible for setting up monitors for the plovers at the beach and stated that several pairs of plovers and at least one nest have already been identified at the beach. **Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they continue the funding for a Volunteer Coordinator for the plovers in the amount of \$3,000.**

9. Recommendations for Phasing Beach Use in 2020

Mr. Driver explained the first item to discuss is whether or not to sell daily parking stickers this season at the beach. Discussion included whether daily parking passes would and the resultant increase of visitors would make social distancing more difficult, whether daily parking passes to anyone other than Maine residents would contravene the State's 14-day quarantine rule and whether restrictions on daily parking passes would damage local businesses.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that no daily parking passes be sold prior to June 15 and the issue be reviewed before June 15. The vote was 7 in favor (Driver, Sherman, Burke, Dykstra, Wasserman, Gustin, Mulvihill) and 1 opposed (Matthews-Bull).

Mr. Driver presented the next issue was the initial opening of 28 parking spaces on May 15th between Broadway and New Biddeford Road for town residents. Ms. Burke suggested perhaps opening parking spaces where there are entrances to the beach and suggested the section between Broadway and Belvedere might provide people in town better access. Mr. Dykstra agreed with Ms. Burke's suggestion adding it would also open the handicapped entranceway and asked if there was a downside to opening that section first. Mr. Driver replied it is just a matter of 39 parking spaces being open as opposed to 28 spaces. Ms. Matthews-Bull asked when the town would be opening more spaces adding she would like to see the beach open completely by July 1st.

Mr. Driver explained the proposed sequencing of the phases for re-opening the beach as follows:

- Phase I. For residents only May 15th to May 31st from Broadway to Belvedere Avenue
- Phase II. June 1 open 19 spaces on Dyke Road
- Phase III. June 15th open 18 spaces from Broadway to New Biddeford Road
- Phase IV. July 1 open up additional 35 spaces between Belvedere Avenue and Bellwood Avenue so that all spaces on Kings Hwy and Dyke Road would be open.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee recommended that the 39 parking spaces from Broadway to Belvedere Avenue be opened from May 15th through May 31st for Kennebunkport residents only. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Driver suggested the next phases be consolidated into one motion to be: June 1st open 19 spaces on Dyke Road, June 15th open 28 spaces between New Biddeford Road and Broadway, and July 1st or 15th depending on crowding on the beach, open 35 spaces from Belvedere Avenue to Bellwood Avenue. Ms. Matthews-Bull asked if that would open up all of the parking spaces at the beach. Mr. Driver replied it would open up 70% of the parking spaces available. Ms. Matthews-Bull disagreed with the phasing and offered to just agree to revisit the opening of more parking spaces at a determined date in June.

A lengthy discussion among the Committee members with some comment from members of the general public followed on the timing of opening up more parking spaces.

Thereafter, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee recommended to the Board of Selectmen that parking at the beach be opened to the general public in the following phases:

- **June 1st, 39 spaces between Broadway and Belvedere Avenue, plus 19 spaces on Dyke Road**
- **June 15th, 28 spaces between New Biddeford Road and Broadway**
- **July 1st or 15th, 35 spaces between Belvedere Avenue and Bellwood Avenue.**

The vote was 7 in favor (Driver, Sherman, Burke, Gustin, Dykstra, Mulvihill and Wasserman) and 1 opposed (Matthews-Bull)

10. Other Business

Upon duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Selectment that no campfires permits be issued for Goose Rocks Beach for 2020.

Mr. Driver then asked the Committee members for their opinions on whether the Committee should recommend banning group sports on the beach. The discussion included questions of how to define “group sports”, how to enforce such a prohibition, and whether the requirement of social distancing addressed the issue. Upon consideration of the opinions expressed, the Committee, noting that there will be a statement regarding social distancing in the 2020 Beach Brochure, offered no motions or formal recommendations on the issue of group sports.

The Committee next discussed the question whether the storage of equipment overnight on the beach should be forbidden. Mr. Driver added there has been some discussion with the town about instituting a tagging system to tag beach equipment with a warning that it could be confiscated if left overnight.

The Committee members had a lengthy discussion on this issue along with input from some members of the public and from Chief Sanford. Chief Sanford stated the town has discussed using a tag system in two parts that is biodegradable, that basically is warning system for the police to make notification to the owners of equipment inappropriately left at the beach and it also gives the town data to follow up if such equipment continues to be stored on the beach inappropriately. There will also be some education material with the tagging system to help inform visitors of the beach rules.

Mr. Sherman took this time to thank Laurie Smith, Chief Sanford, and Allison Kenneway for all of their efforts to keep the townspeople informed during this pandemic.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that a rule be adopted that all beach equipment must be removed at the end of the day including but not limited to tents, canopies, umbrellas, beach chairs, and the like equipment and that the Police Chief and Town Manager incorporate a tagging system to warn people that their equipment may be subject to confiscation if it is not removed at the end of the beach day. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7 in favor (Driver, Sherman, Burke, Gustin, Dykstra, Mulvihill and Wasserman) and 1 opposed (Matthews-Bull).

The Committee next discussed the issue of cars illegally in no parking areas along Dyke Road, New Biddeford Road or on side streets and suggested there should be an ordinance amendment to permit the Police Department to tow any vehicles that are in violation. Chief Sanford commented that the relatively modest parking ticket fines do not offer much deterrence.

Thereafter upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Police Department be given authority to tow a vehicle that is in violation of the parking ordinances. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7 in favor (Driver, Sherman, Burke, Gustin, Dykstra, Mulvihill and Wasserman) and 1 opposed (Matthews-Bull).

11. Date for Next Meeting

After some discussion, the Committee members asked Ms. Smith to provide some available dates during the week after Memorial Day or the first week in June for the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Smith noted these times have been challenging but the town is working within the parameters and have tried to find balance between the public health, people's economic future, the reputation of Kennebunkport and the state of Maine.

12. Adjourn

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.