

**Town of Kennebunkport  
Beach Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM  
Thursday, June 4, 2020**

A virtual meeting of the Beach Advisory Committee was held on June 4, 2020. Members participating were Richard Driver, Carol Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jim Mulvihill, Sheila Matthews-Bull, Jen Wasserman.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Driver called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and acknowledged the recent loss of a beloved community member, Stuart Barwise, who gave so much to this town.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was approved by a vote of 7-0-1 with Ms. Sherman abstaining.

3. Election Results

Mr. Driver welcomed Carol Sherman as the newest member of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee.

4. Bob Sherman

A small token of appreciation was presented to Mr. Bob Sherman as a thank you for his 7.5 years of dedicated service to the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Board and the community at large. Mr. Sherman thanked the Committee.

5. Zoom broadcasting of Town meetings and how to access

Mr. Driver announced this meeting as well as other town boards such as the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board, are broadcast on Zoom and there is no way to change the format. In terms of notice of a meeting, Mr. Driver explained Joanne Gustin puts out a message using Constant Contact, the town sends out emails with the agenda and instructions on how to access the virtual meetings, or you go to the town website and find all of the information including agendas. Ms. Smith added people can also watch the meeting on YouTube or on local cable channel 1301. Ms. Burke asked if the town could explore options once the state of emergency is over and we go back to in-person meeting to continue accessibility to Committee meetings for property owners and other interested parties who live too far away to attend meetings and are not within the local cable range.

6. Public comments on matters not on the agenda

Mr. Eric Podolsky of Biddeford asked if the new recommendations regarding kayak storage was just for this season and wondered why Goose Rocks Beach doesn't use sticker kiosks for beach passes. Mr. Driver replied that the ban on storing kayaks on the beach is at least for the foreseeable future and there will be a kiosk installed at the corner of Kings Highway and Broadway this summer.

Mr. Stuart Weber of 280 Kings Highway addressed the Committee to strongly oppose the location of the sticker kiosk to be placed at the corner of Broadway and Kings Highway citing it is already a congested intersection with 12 young children living in that area adding more traffic would be putting their lives in danger. Ms. Matthews-Bull acknowledged Mr. Weber's concerns and stated the Committee will take the matter under advisement. Citing practices that are used in Biddeford, Mr. Weber suggested the town sell parking permits through an App.

Mr. Griswold of 26 New Biddeford Road asked if the speed bumps on New Biddeford Road would be installed again this year. Mr. Driver replied there is one speed bump already in and the 2<sup>nd</sup> speed bump will be installed soon. Mr. Griswold thanked the town for installing those as it has made a great difference halting speeding cars along that road.

7. Signs re: dogs on beach

Prior to this meeting, Ms. Sherman drafted several alternatives to the dog signs and suggested these be put up at places that are dog friendly such as the Conservation Trust properties, Sandy Pines Campground, Resort at Goose Rocks, as well as on the town's website. Ms. Sherman also suggested installing an enclosed bulletin board at the General Store where notices regarding the beach can be posted. The Committee members had a brief discussion on this topic. Ms. Burke volunteered to contact the General Store to see if they would grant permission to install such a bulletin board and compile the cost of having one built. Mr. Hogan suggested a sticker or magnet be made to cover the parts of the beach signs that do not apply during the summer months. Mr. Dykstra volunteered to contact Bethany to design such a sticker for the current signs.

8. GRB brochure changes and clarification of 25' reserved areas

Mr. Driver announced a new brochure has been created for this season. It will be in black/white not color and has a section that explains the rights of the 63 property owners who are signatories of the Beach Use Agreement. Ms. Burke asked if there was some way of identifying those properties that are part of the Beach Use Agreement. Mr. Hogan suggested the town mail out 4 or 5 stickers to the Beach Use Agreement signatories to place on their kayaks so that the Community Service Officers can identify those who have the right to store their kayaks on their property. Following a brief discussion on Mr. Hogan's suggestion, Mr. Dykstra made a motion the Committee send out a survey to the 65 beach-front signatories to the Beach Use Agreement to get their input on the concept of having stickers assigned for them to use to identify watercraft and other material that they are storing on the beachfront. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

9. Status of staking and roping dune grass, request funding.

Ms. Wasserman provided a brief report on the areas of the beach that have been roped off and those areas that as yet need to have stakes and rope installed and Mr. Sherman reported that the materials used thus far cost approximately \$300. Mr. Driver made a motion that the Selectmen approve the expenditure of up to \$500.00 to cover the cost of staking and roping off the dune grass areas at the beach. Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

10. Discussion of Kayak storing on beach

This Agenda item was covered earlier in the meeting.

11. Plover report

Ms. Sherman gave a detailed report on the plovers at Goose Rocks Beach as well as around the State of Maine. A copy of her report can be found on the town's website.

12. CSOs and beach patrolling

Mr. Driver informed the Committee the town is in the process of hiring the Community Safety Officers. There will probably be 5 new officers hired that will rotate shifts at the beach. Mr. Driver commented that parking at the beach has been limited to Kennebunkport residents and so far, there have been 22 citations issued for those who are not residents.

13. Discussion on beach use in 2020

a. Daily permits Mr. Driver stated the beach parking stickers will be available to purchase on June 15<sup>th</sup> and will be sold at the town hall, the Goose Rocks General Store but not at the Police Department.

b. Group sports Noting in this year's brochure there is a statement that group sports are discouraged at the beach, Mr. Driver asked if the Committee wished to take a harder stand on that issue. After a brief discussion, the Committee members agreed it is best to leave the statement as is presented in the brochure.

c. Delaying opening of last 1/3 of parking Ms. Matthews-Bull explained another 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the parking spots will be opened up on June 15<sup>th</sup> and remainder of the parking spots will be open on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Driver shared his opinion that the town needs to look carefully at this to insure people understand it is their behavior that will rule in terms of whether parking is open and if the beach itself remains open.

14. Other business

Ms. Matthews-Bull asked if the beach use at this point was still just walking and swimming allowed. Mr. Dykstra replied people are allowed to sit on the beach but must maintain social distancing.

15. Date for next meeting and format for summer meetings

Mr. Driver suggested holding the next Committee meeting after July 18<sup>th</sup> and asked Ms. Smith to check on availability. Ms. Smith informed the Committee that the ability to meet virtually expires 30 days after the state of emergency expires by the Governor which would be June 11<sup>th</sup> so the town will need to wait to see if meetings can continue to be held via Zoom or if some other format must be utilized.

16. Adjourn