

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Minutes
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Tuesday, January 26th, 2016

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 26th, 2015. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Paul Hogan – Chairman, Richard Driver, Russ Gorny, Robert Sherman, Sheila Matthews-Bull and Mike Weston. Margaret Barry and Katie Nixon attended via video
Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith Town Manager,

1. Call to Order 6:30 pm

Mr. Hogan called the meeting to order and all members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 15 Meeting

Mr. Weston made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15th, 2015 meeting. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comments on Matters not included in agenda

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

4. Committee Reports

**Communications --*

Mr. Hogan stated that (a) the Proposed sign for the beach entrances, (b) the Proposed budget for this coming year, and (c) the End of year report were sent to Committee members prior to this meeting:

Ms. Nixon gave a brief overview of the new proposed beach sign, pointing out that the goal is to consolidate all of the existing signs at the beach entrances into one attractive sign providing all of the information necessary in a well-designed format. Mr. Hogan added that the intent would be that all of the other signs would be removed.

In response to various questions, Mr. Hogan stated that the new signs would be placed perpendicular to the road at all public beach entrances, be no more than 4 feet tall and are intended to be seen by those walking onto the beach. Ms. Nixon further stated that attaching the pet waste bag dispensers to the posts of the new signs is being considered.

Mr. Sherman commented the new signs make a nice presentation of the seasonal changes to the dog rules. Several suggestions were made by members, including making the word “DOGS” in bold type or red ink, alternative ways continue to emphasize “Parking by sticker only”, identifying the sources for mandatory stickers, specifying the dates stickers are required and the use of colors (blue for content / red for mandatory) for rules. Ms. Nixon agreed to look at the design again to see if they can’t make that section stand out more.

Noting all of the suggestions made this evening, the Committee members agreed with Mr. Hogan’s suggestion to finalize the content and bring a mock-up of the sign to the next meeting to decide on an appropriate size.

Ms. Nixon commented the beach brochures will also need to be updated and the Communications Sub-committee would present a draft brochure at the next meeting, along with a draft of a refrigerator magnet.

Ms. Nixon also explained the Sub-committee is contemplating having flags to designate the plover protection area. Mr. Hogan further explained the idea is to design a nautical flag and enlist a volunteer to be a steward for each neighborhood. Ms. Smith suggested that whatever symbolism is used on the flag also be referenced on the beach signs.

- 2016 Budget for signage and brochures

Ms. Barry gave the following details for possible expenditures:

- Spectrum Design to design (9) 2 ½' by 3' signs on ¾" MDO plywood w/ digitally printed graphic for \$1,035 or (9) 32" by 24" signs for a cost of \$885
- Cost for 6,000 color brochures is \$920
- Brochure inserts would be \$658 in color
- (250) 3" by 4" magnets would cost \$160
- Design work fee would be approximately \$800

Mr. Weston made a motion to approve a budget of \$4,000 for all of the items mentioned previously. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

5. Beach Profiling Budget Request Follow-up

Ms. Nixon made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$750 for Kennebunkport's participation in the state's Beach Profiling program. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

6. Leave No Trace Mike Weston

Mr. Weston gave a brief summary of his research from several state parks and beaches utilizing the Leave No Trace approach. Below is a list of some of the items contained in Mr. Weston's summary:

- *Leave No Trace* eliminates the costs of barrels and trash removal
- Education of the public took a long time
- Kennebunkport Conservation Trust's islands already utilize a similar policy but still have difficulty with people leaving their garbage on the islands
- Almost every organization that has used this approach has had a beach patrol to pick up what is left behind
- Signage is very important in the early stages and trash bags are provided at all entrances
- Expect several years of education and monitoring

In conclusion, Mr. Weston stated this should be given a great deal of thought because the volunteer and control aspects will take several years to implement.

Mr. Weston offered his opinion that if there is not a big problem or a huge cost for trash removal, converting to a *Leave No Trace* policy is not worth the effort.

Mr. Driver noted that part of the problem is the renters who use the beach trash cans for their own house trash.

Mr. Hogan asked if the town would ever consider a dumpster be placed at the police department during the off season for renters to dispose of their trash. Ms. Smith replied the town might not want to have a dumpster at the police station but it is something to consider.

Mr. Sherman suggested the Committee first get an estimate of what the town's costs currently are for trash removal. Ms. Smith responded she would contact Oceanside for that information. Ms. Smith also offered to contact the town's public works department to see if we might educate people as to the use of the barrels to avoid big items such as broken beach chairs being left by the trash barrels.

7. Town Manager's Report

Referring to information provided prior to the meeting, Ms. Smith stated the FAA (a) has developed some rules related to drones which are not yet in effect, and (b) suggests that towns do not generate rules about uses of drones themselves.

Ms. Smith noted the shoulder work has begun on New Biddeford Road starting at the Winter Harbor end and will be finished by spring or early summer, weather permitting. The trimming of brush around the intersection of New Biddeford Road and Kings Highway has been done and reflective tape was put onto the bike racks as requested.

Regarding the upcoming Goose Rocks BAC elections, Ms. Smith noted Ms. Barry's, Ms. Nixon's and Mr. Hogan's terms expire this year. Ms. Smith asked those whose terms were expiring to notify the town by March 15th of their intent so that open positions and the first notice of nominations may be mailed timely. Ballots will be mailed by April 18th, and the election process will be finalized by May 16th.

Ms. Nixon reminded the Committee there was discussion at an earlier meeting to include job descriptions and details of the positions and responsibilities.

8. Discussion on Issues raised in 2015

-- Parking by mopeds at beach

Mr. Hogan reminded the Committee this issue was raised at a previous meeting that mopeds are not allowed to park in the bike rack and are required to park in a vehicular parking spot. Ms. Matthews-Bull suggested that one incidence occurring during the summer should not warrant a full discourse by the Committee.

-- Drones?

Mr. Driver offered his opinion that the Committee should consider a proposal on prohibiting drones on the beach. Ms. Smith stated drones are not allowed to be flown near people or over a crowd and the police can and have enforced that.

After much discussion, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Driver, Ms. Nixon, Mr. Hogan, and Ms. Barry all stated they were in favor of instituting a No-Fly zone for drones at the beach.

Ms. Smith explained the Committee would need to draft an ordinance or resolution; adding that the FAA requests any drafts be presented to them first.

Mr. Driver made a motion the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they move by rule to prohibit the launching of drones on the beach and install a No-Fly zone over of the beach. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion. Ms. Barry, Ms. Nixon, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Weston and Mr. Driver voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Gorny and Ms. Matthews-Bull voted against the motion. The motion passed.

--Extension of smoking ban on beach to e-cigs as state has done for state parks and beaches?

Mr. Hogan explained the state has extended their no smoking policy in state parks and beaches to include e-cigarettes. Ms. Matthews-Bull asked if the town has had many complaints that would make this an issue. Mr. Hogan responded there have been no complaints he is aware of. Ms. Matthews-Bull opined if there has not been a problem with this issue the Committee does not need to discuss it.

Ms. Smith offered to speak to the Police Chief to determine if there is an issue enforcing the no smoking ban.

--Request to BAC regarding open fires in Goose Rocks neighborhoods

Mr. Hogan explained the Committee received a copy of a letter to the Board of Selectmen encouraging them to regulate fires in backyards. There was a brief discussion among the Committee members. The consensus of the Committee was that this topic did not fall within the purview of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee.

9. Next Meeting Date: March 22

10. Adjourn