

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
32 North Street, Village Fire Station
Monday June 15th, 2015
6:30 PM Meeting Agenda

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

Members Present: Margaret Barry, Richard Driver, Russ Gorny (via teleconference), Paul Hogan, Katie Nixon, Robert Sherman

Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith Town Manager, Sheila Matthews-Bull Selectmen Representative

Estimated Allocation of Time

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

Ms. Barry opened the meeting.

(5) Secretary's Report: Beth Ramsey – Consider approval of minutes of May 19, 2015 meeting

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion. Mr. Driver abstained from voting. The Committee voted in favor of the motion.

(5) Open floor to questions and comments from guests attending meeting

There were no comments from the audience in attendance.

Mr. Hogan wished to convey a note of thanks to the Fire Department for their quick response to a potentially dangerous situation where fireworks were being set off at the beach causing a fire in the dune grass. Mr. Hogan added the fire could have easily spread other properties.

With the upcoming 4th of July holiday, the Committee members discussed being more pro-active to educate the public on the dangers of fireworks and the fact that it is illegal to set off fireworks in the town. Ms. Smith commented that the fireworks that set off the dune fire were reported to have been going off for 45 minutes before police were notified. Ms. Smith stressed the importance of calling the police department if you see something that's not right and let the police department investigate the situation. Ms. Nixon commented there should also be a more comprehensive communications plan to address the issue of fireworks on the beach and offered to add that item to the Communications Sub-committee's agenda.

Mr. Driver made a motion to change the beach signs at the public entrances to add language stating fireworks are prohibited. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

(5) Welcome to Russ Gorny as new member and congratulations to Richard Driver and Mike Weston for their re-election to the BAC. Thanks to all three for serving on this Committee.

Mr. Sherman welcomed Mr. Gorny to the Beach Advisory Committee and congratulated Mr. Driver and Mr. Weston on their re-election to the Committee.

(10) Conduct elections for new BAC leadership (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) for FY 2016

Mr. Sherman announced he will retire as chairman of the BAC and opened the floor to nominations for the officer positions.

Mr. Hogan announced his nomination for Chairman of the Committee.

Ms. Nixon announced her nomination for Vice Chairman of the Committee.

There were no nominations for Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee members cast secret ballots and Ms. Smith tallied the votes. Ms. Smith announced Mr. Hogan was elected as Chairman and Ms. Nixon was elected as Vice Chairman for the Committee.

Ms. Barry gave a brief presentation to thank Mr. Sherman for his years of service to the beach community as a whole and for his leadership of the Committee.

(5) Report from Natural Resources Committee

1. Beach Clean-up programs

The First item Mr. Hogan addressed was the dog signs noting the Committee voted to increase the number of dog bag containers to add one at Bartlett Avenue. Mr. Sherman offered his opinion that the number of dog bag containers does not necessarily determine whether there will be dog waste on the beach but rather it is an issue of encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

Ms. Barry made a motion to endorse the recommendation to add one sign at Bartlett Avenue. Mr. Sherman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Driver asked if and when another trash receptacle would be placed on the beach noting with the upcoming holiday, one trashcan will not be sufficient. Ms. Smith replied the Highway Department would place extra trash bins within the next week.

2. Invasive Plants

After the cleanup done in May, Mr. Hogan stated he and members of the Conservation Trust have decided not to do any replanting yet and to wait until the Fall to see if there is any regrowth of the invasive species. Mr. Hogan also noted with the drought, the survival of any new plantings would be hindered and felt it to be more cost effective to wait until the Fall.

3. Endangered Species

Mr. Hogan reported there are currently 5 adult pairs of plovers with one nest located at Goose Rocks Beach.

(15) Other sub-committees: reports, possible restructuring and 2015 committee assignments

1. Communications

Ms. Barry reported the stickers to be placed on the 9 beach signs are in process and should be ready early next week.

Mr. Hogan mentioned with the new dog ordinance passing, the seasonal signs state dogs should be on a leash from 8am to 6pm but the ordinance actually states the time as 8:30am to 6pm. Ms. Smith suggested it is best to be as accurate as possible and suggested ordering a sticker to correct that error so that the signs reflect the exact wording of the newly passed ordinance.

After investigating the cost and time constraints of printing stickers to be placed on the brochures about the adoption of the new Dog Ordinance, Ms. Barry proposed composing an insert to be printed on cardstock similar to the insert done last year regarding the plovers. The cost would be approximately \$300.00 for 3,000 black/white inserts. The Committee members briefly discussed the text of the insert. Ms. Smith suggested stating the time of year when dogs were not allowed on the beach off leash first to ensure a better chance of the public noting that change. Mr. Driver added there should also be mention of the area of the beach where dogs are completely restricted, specifically from Norwood Street westward.

Ms. Smith stated her opinion that the insert is a better solution rather than putting a sticker on the brochures over the outdated language and suggested using colored cardstock to make the insert stand-out. Ms. Smith and the Committee members discussed briefly some specific language to be included on the insert.

Mr. Driver made a motion to proceed with Ms. Barry's suggestion of creating an insert for the beach brochures as discussed. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hogan announced if anyone at home or in the audience would like to assist with stuffing the brochures when they are printed to please contact the Committee at grbadvisory@gmail.com.

Ms. Barry also announced the Natural Resources Committee has created a Facebook page entitled "Friends of Goose Rocks Beach" with the purpose of sharing noteworthy items that might occur between issues of the newsletter such as plover news, water quality and other happenings on the beach. Mr. Hogan added there will be a link in the next e-newsletter to the new Facebook page.

Ms. Nixon asked how the new Facebook page would be controlled to avoid inappropriate or mean-spirited items from being posted. Ms. Barry responded she is the administrator of the page and would have the ability to remove anything inappropriate.

2. Traffic and Safety

There was nothing new to report on this Agenda item.

3. Dog Ordinance

This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Hogan asked the Committee members if there were other sub-committees that should be created or if the current number and topic of sub-committees was adequate. Mr. Hogan asked each Committee member to send their suggestions via email and he would consolidate their ideas for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Hogan reminded the public that membership on any sub-committee was not limited to GRBAC members only and encouraged anyone who would like to join a sub-committee was welcome.

(10) Other BAC discussion topics and updates

1. Back-lot Owners who have not signed BUA

In the spirit of pulling the community together, Mr. Driver suggested offering to all of those beachfront and back-lot property owners to become part of the Beach Use Agreement. There was a lengthy discussion with the Committee members and the Town Manager regarding Mr. Driver's suggestion. Mr. Hogan stated he believes this is an important issue and suggested a sub-committee be formed to discuss the details of what Mr. Driver's proposal would entail. Due to the fact the town is still in litigation regarding public access to the beach, Ms. Smith stated she cannot recommend that Ms. Matthews-Bull or any Selectmen become part of that sub-committee at this point. The Committee members agreed to form a sub-committee to discuss this topic but would most likely not meet until September.

(10) Town Manager's Report

Ms. Smith had nothing new to report at this time and encouraged people to call the police department if they have concerns about the beach or any other part of town as they are available 24/7.

(10) For future BAC meetings, discuss dates, locations and guest speakers (suggested dates are open at the North Street Fire Station)

1. July 13, 20 or 27

2. Aug 17 or 24

3. September 14 or 21

The Committee scheduled tentative dates for the next GRBAC meetings for either July 13th or 27th, August 17th and hold a possible workshop meeting on September 21st. Mr. Hogan will confirm those dates via email.

7:45 Adjourn meeting