

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Monday, May 9th, 2016
6:30 PM Meeting Agenda

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 9th, 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, Margaret Barry, Katie Nixon, Mike Weston, Sheila Matthews-Bull
Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager,

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and confirmed the Committee had a quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 22 meeting

Mr. Driver made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22nd, 2016 meeting. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Sherman suggested that in the future, minutes be posted online after requesting feedback from Committee members but prior to a formal vote of approval in order to distribute the information more expeditiously.

3. Public Comments on Matters not included on agenda

There were no comments from the public.

4. Committee Reports - Communications

Ms. Nixon reported the new, bigger signs were approved, are in production and will be installed by Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Smith asked for some advance notice when the signs will be delivered in order to get the posts in the ground. Ms. Smith offered if the Committee had concerns where the new signs were to be installed, perhaps they could mark the areas with flags or stakes so the Highway Department know the exact locations.

Ms. Smith confirmed any existing signs with redundant information will be removed; however, the swimming advisory signs will remain in their present location per the request of the Town Nurse Judy Barrett. Ms. Smith also confirmed the dog waste bag dispensers and the brochure containers would also be installed.

Ms. Nixon also reported the refrigerator magnets and cards, which explain the new dog rules, have been printed and delivered to the Town Office and the General Store. Ms. Smith requested that the Police Department have a supply of the cards for the beach patrol officers. Ms. Barry suggested the magnets be distributed at one of the Committee sponsored beach gatherings. Mr. Hogan offered to speak with the owner of the General Store to see if they have a preference between the magnets or the cards.

Ms. Smith suggested more of the cards be printed. The Committee agreed unanimously to print 1,000 more cards.

Ms. Nixon also stated a new e-newsletter would be sent out after the elections so the results could also be reported which will also include a plover update.

Ms. Barry reported the plover flags are presently in production and should be done by the end of the week and will be installed at the west end as soon as possible.

Natural Resources --June 4 Beach Clean-up and New Plantings Check-up Day

Mr. Sherman stated there are currently 4 plover nests identified which is less than previous years but it is still early in the season.

Mr. Hogan announced on Saturday June 4th there will be a beach cleanup beginning at 9:00am. Those interested in helping please meet at the General Store. Mr. Sherman asked if it were possible to have the Town place a dumpster at the beach to aid in the removal of all of the items found during the cleanup. Ms. Smith responded it would be possible to have Oceanside drop off a dumpster on Friday and remove it on Monday but cautioned it would need to be monitored and locked to avoid others from discarding their personal trash or debris. Mr. Sherman made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen to fund a dumpster for the Beach Cleanup Day. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

5. *"Walk - Around GRB" to Open New Walking Pathway -- Memorial Day Weekend or June 18 if not complete in May? Also to benefit Plover Education/Monitoring Project (see #7 below)*

Mr. Hogan revealed the Communications Subcommittee would like to promote the new walkway along New Biddeford Road by having a member of the Board of Selectmen do a ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Hogan added it would be promoted in the local papers as well on the Committee's website and Facebook page. Ms. Barry made a motion to sponsor a "Walk Around Goose Rocks Beach" to celebrate the new walking path on New Biddeford Road on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

6. *Follow-up -- Drone ban request going to Board of Selectmen for their May 12 Meeting*

Mr. Hogan mentioned there was nothing new to report on this topic and the Committee is awaiting the results of the Board of Selectmen's discussion at their May 12th meeting.

Ms. Nixon asked to address Ms. Matthews-Bull's comments on the subject made at the last committee meeting. Ms. Nixon agreed with Ms. Matthews-Bull that the Committee should not look for trouble but at the end of the beach where Ms. Nixon lives there has already been an issue with drones. Mr. Sherman stated he has done some research of other beaches' policies on drones and found a set of guidelines that states one should "not intentionally fly over unprotected people". Mr. Sherman offered that people at the beach are unprotected people. No audience member in attendance had comments regarding the drone issue.

At Mr. Hogan's request, Ms. Nixon agreed to address the Board of Selectman at the May 12 meeting to convey the Committee's concerns regarding drones at the beach.

7. *Proposal on Funding of Intern Position --Plover Protection and Education, Carol Sherman --See detailed request below*

Referring to Carol Sherman's detailed request on the Committee's website, Mr. Hogan stated the GRBAC has been asked to provide funds to cover the stipend for an internship position in cooperation with Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the Maine Audubon Society. The intern's main focus would be on informational and educational programs as well as monitoring of the protected plover areas, Mr. Hogan explained.

Responding to questions from Committee members, Mr. Hogan stated that the intern would work only at Goose Rocks Beach approximately 20 hours/week. Mr. Sherman explained the reason for having an intern is to raise the awareness of people to help them understand the importance of protecting endangered species. Mr. Weston made the suggestion that if the Committee funds the internship, the intern provides a report for the season. Ms. Nixon agreed with Mr. Weston's suggestion, adding that a report would be establish a level of accountability.

Mr. Driver made a motion the Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen to spend a maximum of \$3,000.00 in support of hiring an intern for educational and informational activities at Goose Rocks Beach. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

8. *Town Manager's Report*

Ms. Smith reported the town is busy preparing for the summer and has been working with the General Store on the new location of the port-a-potty. Ms. Smith also reported there are three returning police officers for the summer beach patrol.

Ms. Smith introduced Ms. Judy Barrett, Director of the Kennebunkport Public Health Department along with Allison Kenneway who is the head of the Town's Healthy Beaches program. Ms. Barrett addressed the Committee and asked the audience to visit the updated Town website. Ms. Barrett stated the website now contains the history of the town's healthy beaches program and all its recorded data and welcomed any suggestions on how to further improve the program.

Mr. Hogan asked Ms. Barrett if the Healthy Beaches program was still looking for volunteers. Ms. Barrett replied they would welcome any volunteers and announced the training date for returning volunteers is May 24th, 2016 with another training date to be scheduled for new volunteers. Ms. Barrett concluded that volunteering for this program takes less than an hour a day and all equipment is provided.

As this meeting is Mr. Hogan's last meeting as Chairman of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee, Ms. Nixon thanked him for his years of service and presented him with a token of appreciation.

Ms. Smith announced that May 13th is the last date people can return their ballots and the results of the election will be known on May 16th, 2016.

9. *Set date for June Organizational Meeting/Process; set summer meeting dates*

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 6th, 2016 at the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

10. *Adjourn*