

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
32 North Street, Village Fire Station
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
6:30 PM Meeting Agenda

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2014. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Robert Sherman – Chairman, Margaret Barry, Paul Hogan, Katie Nixon, Beth Ramsey, Mike Weston

Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager, Police Chief Craig Sanford

Estimate of Allocated Time (mins.)

6:30 *Call to Order: Bob Sherman, Chairman*

Mr. Sherman affirmed the Committee had a quorum of 6 members present.

(5) *Secretary's Report: Beth Ramsey –*

Consider approval of minutes of August 21, 2014 meeting

Ms. Ramsey made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 21, 2014 meeting. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Sherman explained to the audience that tonight's meeting would be conducted in a workshop format and encouraged those in attendance to provide input.

Mr. Clancy Cottman addressed the Committee and brought to their attention an incident that occurred at the beach recently where approximately 12 people were each driving a pile of golf balls into the ocean. Mr. Cottman said he contacted the police about the issue. He also spoke with the Department of Marine services who informed him that the golfers' actions were considered illegal dumping into the ocean within a 3 mile limit.

(15) *Town Manager Report and any significant Committee updates*

Ms. Laurie Smith reported on the following:

- Sold approximately 8800 beach stickers this year, which are roughly 50 more than last year
- The number of beach stickers sold includes both residential and non-residential with the majority of non-residential being daily beach passes
- Parking violations were down this year by 40.
- Town has not sent the first group of mailings to collect unpaid parking tickets

Ms. Smith concluded that the revenue expected from the Goose Rocks Beach stickers should be in accordance with the town's budget of \$90,000.00.

(60) *Workshop session with public invited to discuss a range of topics under the broad category topics of: Traffic and Parking Issues*

Ms. Smith stated that Chief Sanford would address concerns raised about excessive speed on New Biddeford Road, Wildwood Ave, bicycles and 20 MPH for the GRB zone.

Chief Sanford provided a handout regarding Rational Speed Limits. Chief Sanford explained that Rational Speed Limits "enhance public safety by helping drivers choose a reasonable and prudent speed that is appropriate for normal traffic, weather and roadway conditions. Traffic engineers and safety officials

determine rational speed limits based on a formal review of traffic flow, roadway design, local development and crash information.” The starting point for determining a new speed limit is the 85th Percentile Speed which is the speed that 85% of vehicles do not exceed.

Using a Speed Enforcement Evaluator, Chief Sanford explained they conducted a weeklong traffic study on the Route 9 side of the bridge on New Biddeford Road and on Wildwood Avenue. The findings were as follows:

- On Wildwood Avenue 85% of cars drove 19 mph or slower
- The state speed limit on Wildwood Avenue is 25mph
- For the one week observation period there were 3,251 cars traveling on Wildwood Avenue
- On New Biddeford Road the study was conducted just before the bridge where the speed limit changes from 25 mph to 30 mph
- On New Biddeford Road 85% of cars drove 29 mph or slower
- For the one week observation period there were 9,427 cars traveling on New Biddeford Road

Chief Sanford concluded his presentation by stating this data collected gives him a good picture of the true traffic at the beach. The data informs him when the peak times are to have a police presence patrolling the area. Katie Nixon suggested that the portable electronic speed sign should still be used in the future.

Mr. Sherman summarized that one solution was to impose a 20 mph speed limit in the entire Goose Rocks Beach zone, but to do so may require significant interaction with the State of Maine that could result in increasing the speed limit. The Committee came to a consensus there was no action item at this time. Mr. Hogan suggested including this data in the next newsletter.

Mr. Sherman announced the next item to discuss, under the traffic heading, concerns bicycles on the road, especially on the stretch of King’s Hwy from Bellewood Ave to the store. Mr. Hogan suggested painting a bike lane along Kings Highway, continuing onto Bellewood and Wildwood. Mr. Hogan also added another issue regarding bicycles is that children under 16 years old are not wearing bike helmets.

Ms. Smith advised the Committee that there is no requirement prohibiting bikes to ride on the sidewalks. Chief Sanford responded to the suggestion of putting bike lanes at the beach stating the Police Dept. can’t force people to use the bike lane, however, state law requires bicyclists to be on the right side of the road.

The discussion changed to parking spaces, in particular the space in front of 227 King’s Hwy. Consensus is that the turn radius is tight but still manageable for emergency vehicles. There is not another location in which to move the space. Alex Lachiatto suggested that one space could be added at the West end.

Mr. Hogan discussed an issue that was brought to his attention regarding the accessibility of the handicapped parking space at the beach. Ms. Smith said she was not aware the space is not wide enough for a handicapped van to maneuver. She will address the issue with the Public Works Director.

Mr. Weston alerted the Committee that there is a housing development of 250 seasonal homes being planned along Route 1 in Arundel. He suggested the BAC will need long-term planning for parking, designated drop-off zones, and traffic control once these homes are built.

Mr. Sherman noted that some people may be parking 24/7 in designated parking for the public to visit GRB. He asked if anyone has any evidence of this practice, please contact him.

Kayak storage

After observing the kayak storage on separate occasions early in the morning, Mr. Weston informed the Committee that people are leaving their kayaks and paddleboards in the dune grass which is destroying the dune grass. The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust is proposing to install wooden posts on Trust property with nautical rope strung between the posts for kayaks and paddle boards to be stored overnight away from the dune grass and out of the tidal area. Mr. Weston also informed the Committee, the Trust will mark off the beach grass area to prevent people from leaving their kayaks there or dragging them across the grass to

the water. All of this will be in place before the Memorial Day weekend next year, Mr. Weston concluded, and the Trust will pay the costs associated.

Mr. Hogan made a proposal for the Committee to authorize up to \$300 for a graphic designer to create a residential beachfront sign to be posted along the dune grass to stop foot traffic through those areas. Ms. Barry seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Building an action item list for the Town

Ms Smith stated she had several items to work on during the winter months such as developing an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) list of beach related items. Mr. Sherman would like to review the Beach Fire Permit to make sure it includes a designated place for the fire. Paul Hogan stated that he had to be specific about location when he took out a fire permit. Wayne Fessenden informed the committee that the original intent of the permit was to limit the concentration of fires in one general area like in front of the Tides.

- (5) *Establish October BAC meeting date for second major working session planned on the topics of Rights of Way, Dog Ordinance and Long Term Planning*

The next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014 at 6:30 at the Village Fire Station on North St.

8:00 *Adjourn meeting*

Suggestions from audience members:

Mrs. Melley:	expressed concern of traffic on West end of Kings Highway Suggested a yield sign or pedestrian sign before a car gets to Dyke Rd ROW
Peter McDonald:	continues to be very concerned about Community House Rd, bikes, speed; volunteered to have the electronic sign at his home; 16 and under need to wear helmets
Mrs. Miller:	The Goose Rocks Dairy use to donate coupons for a cone that were given to kids caught doing something right!
Jeanne:	Would like to enlist the GRBA to help educate kids and their parents
Wes Phillips:	Prout's Neck has a 20 MPH speed limit and it is enforced
Alex Lachiatto:	Would like to research if the 15 MPH was allowed because of the old Fire Station, he asked about home rule for determining road speed during the busy season
Gentleman:	Back in the day, the police or summer staff would be at GRBA as the kids arrived for classes. If they did not have a helmet, they were sent home.