

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on December 17th, 2020.

Members participating were Richard Driver, Kate Bauer-Burke, Carol Sherman, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jim Mulvihill, Jennifer Wasserman, Mike Weston.

1. *Call to Order*

Chairman Richard Driver called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and performed a roll call of all members. After performing a roll call Mr. Driver announced there is a technical issue with the GRB-Advisory Gmail account and instructed anyone who had questions or wished to address the Committee to forward their comments online.

2. *Approval of Minutes*

Ms. Burke made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2020 Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

3. *Public comments on matters not on the agenda*

Mr. Driver opened the meeting up for any public comments. There were no relevant comments raised at this time.

4. *Update dune grass at west end of beach*

Ms. Sherman reported she spoke with Ms. Kate O'Brien from the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge who expressed her desire to cooperate with the town to preserve the dune grass. With gratitude to Mr. Werner Gilliam who found a survey from 1982 that determined the ownership of that particular property, Ms. Sherman stated the town and Rachel Carson share the area where the dune grass has been destroyed and was informed that Rachel Carson does not allow storage of any items on the dune grass and the town does not allow any overnight storage of items on their property. Ms. Sherman suggested all members of the Beach Advisory Committee visit the site where the dune grass has been destroyed to better understand what has happened to help find a possible solution.

Ms. Burke suggested installing racks similar to those on the East end of the beach for folks to store their kayaks on the West end. A brief discussion followed amongst the Committee members on this topic.

Mr. Driver agreed with Ms. Sherman suggestion that all members of the Committee should visit the area to see how much of the dune grass has been trampled/eroded and put this topic on the agenda for the next meeting for possible solutions. Mr. Driver also suggested perhaps Mr. Dykstra and Ms. Sherman could speak with Ms. O'Brien about Rachel Carson prior to the next meeting as well.

5. *Beach profiling funding*

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve a \$1,000 expenditure to the Maine Sea Grant/Maine Cooperative Extension for the beach profiling program. Ms. Burke seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

6. *Consolidation of Signs at GRB*

Ms. Burke reported she will contact the graphic designer after the holidays who has previously worked with Committee members on other beach signs and should have some progress to report at the next meeting.

7. *Student Project – tide levels*

For information, Mr. Driver announced the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and students from Kennebunk High School are working on a project about the changing tide levels due to climate change that may involve some signs being installed on either town property or Land Trust property. The goal, Mr. Driver explained, is to educate the public on what the tide levels might be depending on climate change. Mr. Weston added the town has been working with the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission to come up with goals and setting priorities for climate change and what we can do about the rising tides.

8. *Proposed amendment to dog ordinance*

At the last meeting, Mr. Driver stated, a sub-committee of 4 members comprising of Ms. Burke, Ms. Gustin, Ms. Sherman, and Ms. Wasserman was created to create a proposal to the dog ordinance that would hopefully appease the majority of beach goers.

Ms. Burke reported the sub-committee came to this task with different perspectives but all of them wanting to keep dogs on the beach and were tasked with finding a compromise to enable us to do that, keeping in mind the protection of the plovers and people's enjoyment of the beach. Those were the 2 main issues, and the sub-committee focused their efforts in terms of enforcement and education, Ms. Burke explained. Ms. Burke further explained the research the members of the subcommittee conducted and decided on the following proposal:

- April 1st through September 15th = dogs must be on leash when on the beach.

- June 15th through Labor Day = no dogs allowed on the beach during hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm
- September 16th through March 31st = dogs can be on beach any time of day but must be on a leash during hours of 12:00pm to 6:00pm.

The Committee members had a brief discussion of the proposed changes to the dog ordinance. Mr. Weston suggested it be made clear during the summer hours any time the dogs are on the beach they must be on a leash.

Mr. Driver opened the discussion up to public input.

Ms. Carol Morris of High Tide Road addressed the Committee to voice her opposition to the current dog ordinance as well as this proposed change to the ordinance and it continually reduces the time people can have their dogs on the beach.

Mr. Dykstra asked if a plover nest were disturbed by a dog and the town did not have a specific ordinance in place, would the town be liable. Ms. Burke replied that the Town Manager had expressed concern regarding potential liability to the Town for injury or death of a protected bird, particularly in light of the substantial increase in fines for an injury or death. Town ordinances which limit a dog's access to the protected birds would probably help insulate the Town from such liability.

Ms. Judy Corello of 35 Kings Lane addressed the Committee to comment in her 50+ years at Goose Rocks Beach she has noticed that walking on the beach which she does every day has become less enjoyable because of the dogs and agrees that they must be on leashes.

Ms. Gustin commented that a key part of this proposal is enforcement and education and asked anyone that has suggestions to please share them with Committee.

Ms. Gustin made a motion the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen they adopt the proposal from the subcommittee and put the new dog ordinance changes on the ballot for the June election. Ms. Burke seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

9. Other Business

Ms. Burke reported the bulletin board at the General Store has been taken down to be repaired and will be reinstalled in the spring.

Ms. Sherman expressed her approval of the new stop sign the town installed at the intersection of Dyke Road and Kings Highway and that curbside recycling will begin in January thanks to the work of Mr. Dykstra and the Recycling Committee.

Mr. Dykstra added there will be an open house on January 9th, 2021.

10. Date for next meeting

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to have another meeting in middle-end of February depending on the availability of the videographers.

11. Adjourn