

A virtual meeting of the Beach Advisory Committee was held on July 20, 2020. Members participating were Richard Driver, Carol Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jennifer Wasserman, Mike Weston. Also participating were Town Manager Laurie Smith and Police Chief Craig Sanford

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Driver called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion and the vote was 6-0-1 in favor of the motion. Mr. Weston abstained from voting.

3. Election of officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary)

Ms. Burke nominated Mr. Driver for Chair of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Dykstra seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Gustin nominated Ms. Burke for Vice Chair of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee. Ms. Wasserman seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wasserman nominated Ms. Sherman for Secretary of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Weston seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

4. Public comments on matters not on the agenda

Mr. Driver asked Meagan Sims of Maine Department of Environmental Protection to join the meeting as a participant. Ms. Smith stated she asked Mr. Werner Gilliam, Mr. Chris Simeoni, and Ms. Allison Kenneway to participate as well.

Ms. Kenneway gave brief recap of the town's involvement in the Maine Healthy Beaches program from 2004 to this year's current testing program. Ms. Sims gave a detailed presentation on the Maine Healthy Beaches program, the details which can be viewed on the town's website or on the Kennebunkport Television YouTube channel. Included in Ms. Sims presentation are details of the coordinated efforts of the Kennebunkport Public Health Department, Public Works Department, Code Enforcement & Planning Department, and the Wastewater Department.

Going forward, Mr. Gilliam commented the town along with Maine Healthy Beaches program will continue to educate property owners on their responsibilities to maintain and care for their septic system as well as good practices as they should be careful on what they can put down their drains. Mr. Dykstra commented there are a number of folks in town on fixed incomes and to replace a septic system is very costly endeavor and asked if there were any programs the town or state offers to help those folks. Ms. Sims replied she can not speak for the town but there have

been some state funding programs available and will share that information with the Town Manager.

Ms. Kenneway provided photos of the current signs at the beach pointing out the caution statement which says: “The mouths of the Batson and Little Rivers periodically experience elevated bacteria levels, especially during and after rainfall. It is advised to swim on the ocean side of Goose Rocks Beach and avoid water contact in the rivers for 24-48 hours following rainfall.” Mr. Dykstra suggested the language on those signs should mention the elevated levels are concentrated during low tides.

Mr. Driver asked if there were any questions from the viewing audience.

Ms. Pam Morgan of 52 High Tide Road suggested Ms. Sims or Ms. Kenneway contact Ms. Marcia Moreno-Piaz at the University of New England for assistance in the town’s GIS mapping project.

There were no further questions or comments from the Committee members or the public.

5. Request funds for bulletin board not to exceed \$500

Mr. Weston made a motion to request \$500 to pay for a bulletin board to be installed at the General Store on Dyke Road. Ms. Burke seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Weston made a motion to request \$97.00 to cover the cost of the revisions to be made to the beach brochure. Ms. Wasserman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

6. Request funds for seasonal dog signs not to exceed \$300

Mr. Driver explained it was discussed at the last meeting there should be some clarification on the seasonal dog signs to explain the dog rules more clearly and suggested the Committee request funds not to exceed \$200 to make those changes to the signs. Ms. Burke made a motion to request funds for the seasonal dog signs. Ms. Wasserman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

7. Update dune grass staking; thank KCT for kayak racks

Mr. Driver asked for an update on the staking of the dune grass and expressed the Committee’s thanks to the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust for installing racks for kayaks to be stored on their property.

Mr. Dykstra wished to recognize the efforts of Paul Hogan and another resident who coordinated the installation of the kayak racks and provided signs letting the public know the racks were for their use on beach.

Ms. Wasserman explained with a good volunteer effort the entire east side of Jeffrey's Way to just beyond Dinghy Point has been staked and twined to protect the dune grass. Ms. Wasserman also noted with the dune grass marked off there have been less trespassing and no kayaks left on the grass.

Mr. Driver acknowledged there was a question raised at the last meeting whether property beachfront property owners wanted stickers to identify their kayaks which are stored on their property within the 25 foot reserved area. Mr. Driver asked if any Committee member wished to compose a draft of a survey for those 65 property owners.

The Committee members had a brief discussion on this item and how not to add an extra burden to the Community Safety Officers' duties.

Police Chief Craig Sanford explained it hasn't been too much of an issue because it comes down to somebody actually complaining there is something on their property that's not supposed to be. Chief Sanford added they have issued a number of warnings which have worked well for the most part.

Mr. Driver asked if it is unnecessary for the Committee to talk to the property owners about the stickers for kayaks. Chief Sanford replied yes, he believes it would be a wasted effort at this time think the tagging program along with efforts at staking the dune grass and the kayak stans seem to be working well.

#### 8. Report on use of kiosk

Chief Sanford reported the kiosk seems to be working well with a few times there have been connectivity issues due to the fog and acknowledged that the double parking is an issue in that area regardless of the kiosk and asked people to try to be respectful.

#### 9. Beach report: traffic, distancing, parking violations, dog violations

Chief Sanford provided the following information:

- Compared to 2019 data for March 1<sup>st</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup> 380 tickets were issued in 2019 and 320 tickets have been issued so far for 2020.
- Issued 49 tags for beach equipment, 35 of those were improperly stored equipment either left out overnight or kayak stored improperly
- Issued 3 warnings for equipment left outside the reserved are
- Issued 8 other violations which could be anything outside main ones.
- Issued 2 for no beachfront owner's permission
- Issued 20 dog warnings, 3 fireworks complaints, 1 for unpermitted beach fire.

Ms. Wasserman asked how the dog tickets compare to last year. Chief Sanford stated the majority of tickets issued were to those visiting for the day and none of them have been repeat offenders as far as he could tell.

Several Committee members made comments they have witnessed several dogs off leash in violation at the dog ordinance. Chief Sanford explained there is an overlap of patrols on the beach and they always try to give warning first.

The Committee members had a brief discussion of regarding dogs off leash.

10. Water quality and testing

This item was covered at beginning of meeting with presentation.

11. Discussion of BAC sub-committees

Ms. Burke agreed to draft a proposal on the number and nature of sub-committees to be discussed at the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting.

12. Discussion of GRB Facebook page

Ms. Burke explained the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page has grown since its beginning and now has well over 3,000 followers and suggested its purpose and content should be re-evaluated. To oversee the content of the Facebook page, Ms. Burke stated it was suggested to have an Editor-in-Chief and Audrey Lakin agreed to fill that role.

Mr. Dykstra asked what the relationship of the Facebook page is to this Committee. Ms. Gustin explained the page was born of the Committee but is not reflective of the Committee's views.

13. Plover report

Ms. Sherman stated this year there have been plover nests all over the beach not just at the west end. As of Friday, Goose Rocks Beach has 5 fledglings and 8 chicks and with luck we will fledge 13 chicks to make this our best year ever. Last year we fledged 11 chicks, Ms. Sherman added, and expressed her heartfelt thanks to all those who helped this season to keep the plovers safe.

14. Remote access to BAC meetings after emergency declaration

Mr. Driver asked if people who are in a remote location from Goose Rocks Beach, can they use YouTube to participate in our meetings. Ms. Smith replied you can monitor but can not participate through YouTube so the video crew and herself are looking into ways for those folks to participate. Ms. Smith added she is also waiting for information from the legislature in regards to allowing that kind of participation as there are complications in creating a hybrid solution but we are looking at those.

Mr. Driver asked if that was just for the Beach Advisory Committee or are other boards in the town looking for that option as well. Ms. Smith responded the other town boards have not requested it and reminded everyone that Kennebunkport is small town with limited staff.

15. Discussion on signs

After some discussion amongst the Committee members it was agreed for all to look at the signs currently installed at the beach and take note of what signs can be consolidated/eliminated in preparation for the next meeting.

16. Info on recycling

Ms. Smith announced the new town budget was just approved at the last town meeting which allows for the restart of recycling on January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a short article in the town newsletter that tells people about contamination, what it is, and how to clean recycled items to cost us the least and have the most benefit.

17. Other business

There were no comments or questions raised at this time.

18. Date for next meeting

After some discussion, the date of the next meeting in August will be announced once availability of staff is confirmed by the Town Offices. The August BAC meeting will be conducted using ZOOM.

19. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made. It was seconded and the vote was unanimous.