

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
June 26th, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM
Village Fire Station Meeting Room, 32 North Street, Kennebunkport

A meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on June 26th, 2023.

Members participating in person were Paul Hogan, Pam Czekanski, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Fred Stafford, Jon Dykstra
Member participating via Zoom was Charles Cadwell

1. Call to Order

Mr. Hogan called the meeting to order, and the Committee members introduced themselves.

2. Welcome new board member – Charles Cadwell

Mr. Hogan welcomed Mr. Cadwell to the Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 24 meeting

Mr. Hogan one correction to be made to the minutes from the last Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve said amended minutes. Mr. Engel seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Cadwell did not vote on this item.

4. Comments from Public on Issues not on the Agenda

Mr. Hogan asked if there were any comments from the audience members on items not on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Juliann Ambroz of Dyke Road addressed the Committee via Zoom to express her concern about the dogs on the beach and their disturbance of the endangered American Oyster Catchers that are a protected species along with the plovers and least terns. The Committee members had a brief discussion on the dog ordinance and the protecting endangered species at the beach.

5. Annual Election of Officers of the BAC

Mr. Hogan explained the procedure for the election of officers and nominated Ms. Czekanski for Chair of the Beach Advisory Committee, Mr. Engel for Vice Chair of the Beach Advisory Committee, and Mr. Stafford as Secretary of the Beach Advisory Committee. Ms. Sherman made a motion in favor of Mr. Hogan's nominations. Mr. Stafford seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Czekanski took over running the meeting as the newly elected Chair and thanked the former officers for their service.

6. Committee Reports

– Communications-Facebook policy – Fred

Mr. Stafford reported there was an issue recently regarding the Facebook page and several inappropriate comments made after a photo of some construction was posted onto the page. In response to that, Mr. Stafford informed the Committee members there is a new policy statement on the Facebook page that clarifies the purpose and expected content of both the posts and comments that are acceptable. Mr. Stafford shared a draft of the policy statement with each of the Committee members prior to this meeting.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to adopt the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach policy statement. Ms. Sherman seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

– Natural Resources – Water testing – Jon

Mr. Dykstra gave a slide presentation on the Goose Rocks Beach Water Quality Program on improving and enhancing the water testing protocol for the beach. Mr. Dykstra explained the intent is to formalize this presentation with input from the Committee to make a more formal presentation at the July meeting. The presentation can be viewed on the town website.

There was a lengthy discussion among the Committee members, the town manager Laurie Smith, and the audience members after the presentation.

Mr. Hogan made a motion that the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen to continue the DNA testing and perform additional testing if human DNA is detected for a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

– Dune restoration – Paul

Mr. Hogan reported there was some planting done at the Proctor Avenue entrance in accordance with the open permit from the Maine DEP and the Conservation Committee also did some planting along Dyke Road where they had previously removed a large amount of invasive species.

Ms. Smith said she received a message from Mr. Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning and Code Enforcement that the DEP has given the approval to do some more planting and will share that information with the Committee members in an email.

– Plovers/Least Terns – Carol

Ms. Sherman provided the following information as part of the plover and least tern report:

- Goose Rocks Beach had 21 active nests with only 5 still remaining on the west end.
- A large number of the nests were destroyed by either foxes, skunks, or racoons, based on the tracks left behind.
- On the east end the first plover has fledged and there are 2 nests incubating which should hatch soon.
- The least terns were decimated this year at the west end with one nest remaining.
- Maine Audubon has in the past proposed the use of electric fences for protection which is something to consider after much research and education has occurred to see if it will be a good fit here.

Ms. Sherman also reported that a Plover Volunteer Coordinator has been hired. The coordinator is Erin Sullivan, Ms. Sherman stated and suggested the Committee invite Ms. Sullivan to attend the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting to meet the members and the community. All Committee members agreed to have Ms. Sullivan as a guest at the next meeting.

– Dune mapping – Jon

Mr. Dykstra stated with lack of any significant storms recently there is no requirement to do any remapping of the dunes at this time.

– Traffic Safety - Barry

Mr. Engel gave a detailed report from the Traffic & Safety Subcommittee. Some of the items discussed were as follows:

- There has been a significant improvement with the landscaping, construction, and maintenance vehicles parking along the road.
- The new speed monitors that have been installed are a great reminder and seem to be working well.
- The town's new *No Need To Speed* signs are also contributing to the slowing down of traffic.
- The striping on the edges of Kings Hwy has also proven beneficial.
- The Committee also asked for the existing crosswalks to be painted bright white on Kings Hwy which have not yet been done.
- The Sub-Committee reviewed the speed reports conducted by the Police Department which were helpful and suggested those studies be conducted this year if feasible.
- The Committee also requested to have a sign put up at the intersection of Dyke Road and Kings Hwy to direct traffic seeking parking spaces to turn left. Mr. Dykstra offered to bring this issue up to the Board of Selectmen.
- Art Lemay volunteered to help with communication and posting on the website about traffic and safety.

7. *Old Business*

– *Tallying of watercraft stored at beach – Jon*

Mr. Dykstra stated the CSOs are doing a once-a-week count of the watercraft left on the beach and will assemble that information into a spreadsheet to be reviewed later.

8. *New Business*

There were two suggestions made for speakers for the summer meetings. For the July meeting, Mr. Dykstra suggested doing a presentation of the water testing as part of the public education program. At the August meeting, Mr. Dykstra suggested having a member of the Climate Action Planning Taskforce to explain what the group does and to listen to concerns from the public.

Ms. Czekanski announced the next meetings will be held on July 17th, 2023 and August 21st, 2023 both will be at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Ms. Czekanski asked the audience members in attendance and on Zoom if they had any questions or comments.

The Committee and audience members had detailed conversations on the dog ordinance and its enforcement, the Beach Use Agreement and the details of those allowed to sign the Agreement, the beach litigation, and the composition of the Beach Advisory Committee members and who is eligible to run for a seat on the Committee.

9. Next Meeting Dates: July 17 & August 21 @ GRB Firehouse

10. Adjournment