

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
December 11th, 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 December 11th, 2023.

Members participating in person were Pam Czekanski (Chair), Fred Stafford (Secretary), Carol Sherman, Jon Dykstra. Mr. Paul Hogan participated via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Czekanski called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stafford made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16th, 2023, Beach Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public comments for items not on the agenda

There were no comments or questions from the audience in attendance or on Zoom at this time.

4. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety

There is no update on this agenda item at this time.

b. Natural Resources

Mr. Hogan reported they were not able to get an estimate or bid on the design work for 3 walkways at the beach. After some discussion, Mr. Dykstra offered to speak with the Town Manager to possibly have Woodard & Curran provide a design quote.

c. Communications-Kennebunkport Climate Action update

Mr. Stafford provided a summary of the Kennebunkport Climate Action Task Force of which he and Mr. Dykstra are members. Mr. Stafford stated the Task Force works closely with the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission and explained that the Task Force is focused on ensuring that the town's infrastructure is able to handle the effects of rising seas and weather events.

Mr. Stafford asked if anyone has ideas on ways the town can reduce their carbon footprint, to please go to the town website and provide your feedback.

5. Old Business

1. Overnight Storage

Mr. Dykstra shared a slideshow presentation on the number of kayaks and other watercraft left on the beach this past season after the town decided not to put up the kayak storage racks. This presentation will be available on the town website along with the approved minutes.

Mr. Dykstra concluded his presentation by stating there definitely were less kayaks left on the beach than in 2022 when the racks were installed and there were significantly less kayaks left in the dune grass due to the stake and twine.

Mr. Mark Badertscher of Norwood Lane addressed the Committee stating he conducted his own survey of watercraft left on the beach and offered to share his data with the Committee. Mr. Badertscher shared his conclusions that people were not putting their kayaks on the dunes, and there was not a large increase of kayaks left on the beach on the weekends.

Ms. Maureen Somers suggested providing the CSOs with more accurate maps, so they know who the Beach Use Agreement members are and who are not.

2. Beachside numbers on houses

Ms. Sherman stated she wrote a letter in working with Fire Chief asking beachfront owners to put numbers on their houses on the beachfront side like they do on the street side to aid first responders in the event of an emergency on the

beach. Only 3 houses have complied so far, Ms. Sherman added, with one of those three being her house. Ms. Sherman stated she would try again with another letter.

3. *Commercial activity on the beach*

Mr. Dykstra reported the town is moving forward with The Tides Inn and it is now between our legal groups.

Mr. Hogan asked if an update could be provided about the garbage situation.

Mr. Dykstra stated the town has entered into a contract with Casella and pick-ups will be on Fridays at Goose Rocks Beach, year-round, every week of both trash and recycling. The new contract begins September 1st, 2024, but it will not include the automated pick-up until a new truck is available which is more likely to happen in the fall, Mr. Dykstra added.

Mr. Hogan clarified his comment that he was interested in the trash bins at the beach entrances. Mr. Dykstra explained that decision is for the town and this Committee to decide and offered his preference is to move to a carry in/carry out policy at the beach with no trash receptacles at all at the beach.

There was a lengthy discussion amongst the Committee members and the audience both in attendance and on Zoom on the timing and whether a carry in/carry out policy would be successful this upcoming summer season.

No conclusion was reached by the Committee members at this point.

Ms. Czekanski suggested having a subcommittee review this in depth what they think the transition would look like this summer and discuss it at the next meeting in March.

6. *New Business*

a. *Southern Maine Beach Profile funding request*

Mr. Hogan made a motion the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen to spend \$1,000 to support the Southern Maine Beach Profile program. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

7. *Next meeting date March 18th, 2024.*

8. *Adjournment*