

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 31, 2021 ~ 6:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)**

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on March 31, 2021.

Members participating were Richard Driver, Kate Bauer Burke, Carol Sherman, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, 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.

*2. Approval of Minutes*

Ms. Burke made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Goose Rocks 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 asked the viewing audience if they had any questions or comments for the Committee. There were no questions or comments at this time.

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

After meeting with representatives of the Rachel Carson Preserve, Ms. Sherman informed the Committee the plan as of today is, with town's approval, to do the following in the hope of restoring the dune grass:

- put up a sign at the West End stating no kayak or boat parking
- stake & twine the town property
- work with the Baylis family and Maine Audubon regarding the stake/twine
- help educate people via email, newsletter, etc.
- monitor the area.

As part of the education process, Ms. Burke suggested speaking with the campground managers to inform their guests to not leave their kayaks on the beach except at the East End where the kayak racks are located.

The Committee members had a brief discussion on the language and location of the proposed sign.

Ms. Burke made a motion the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the town place a sign at the access point at the West end of the beach reminding people that no kayaks be left there. Mr. Dykstra seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

*5. Dune staking*

The committee members discussed ways to solicit more volunteers to help this year with putting stakes and twine to protect the dune grass. After much discussion, the Committee decided to combine the dune staking with the Spring Beach Clean-Up day. The dates of May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with rain dates of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> were agreed to upon hold the Spring Beach Clean-Up.

Mr. Weston volunteered to speak with the Town Manager to arrange Public Works to provide a dumpster.

Ms. Sherman agreed to contact the Maine Audubon Society to coordinate the staking areas for the plovers.

Ms. Gustin made a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen for funds not to exceed twice the amount requested last year for materials such as stake and twine for dune grass protection.

Mr. Dykstra volunteered to confirm with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust regarding the kayak racks and protection of the dune grass on their property.

Ms. Burke volunteered to research if any beachfront properties have changed ownership and contact those owners regarding the dune grass staking.

Ms. Gustin offered to update the Committee's Facebook page with the details of the beach Clean-Up weekend as well as contact the school district and other civic groups in town in an effort to attract more volunteers.

Ms. Burke agreed to place a notice about the Spring Clean-Up weekend on the bulletin board at the General Store.

6. *Consolidation of Signs at GRB*

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to ask the town to cover the cost of the design and printing of new stickers for the beach signs regarding the proposed new Dog Ordinance rules. Ms. Burke seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

7. *Spring cleanup*

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

8. *Info items: Stop sign on Kings Highway, new email address, bulletin board, rocks in ROW to beach, election*

Mr. Driver announced there is a new stop sign permanently installed on Kings Highway at the intersection of Dyke Road.

Mr. Driver also announced there is a new email address for the Beach Advisory Committee for any member of the public to submit questions or comments to the Committee. The address will be posted on the town website on the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee page.

Mr. Driver asked the committee members their opinion who should have the password to be responsible for email communications and reporting that information to the Committee or appropriate person.

As secretary of the Beach Advisory Committee, Ms. Sherman volunteered to be the steward of the email account.

There was a lengthy discussion about the BAC email and password. Mr. Weston was to confer with Laurie Smith about access to the email and passwords. Mr. Weston also emphasized that only one person (the secretary) should be able to delete or respond to emails from residents. The consensus was that every member could have the password to view the emails, but only the secretary would be able to respond.

Mr. Driver asked about the bulletin board at the General Store and what information would be posted there. Ms. Burke stated there should be information about the Dog Ordinance as well as the beach clean-up day and dune grass staking along with both sides of this year's beach brochure.

Mr. Dykstra commented the town's new curbside recycling program is going well so far and they are working on having realtors include recycling information in their welcome information packets to summer renters.

Mr. Driver explained the blocking of the access points to the beach with small boulders in the off-season is done to protect Kings Highway and the properties across from the beach from winter storms.

Mr. Driver announced information on the election will be sent out soon and there are 2 seats available on the Committee: one beachfront (Jim Mulvihill's seat) and one backlot (Richard Driver's seat). Only those signers of the Beach Use Agreement are eligible to vote, Mr. Driver added.

Mr. Driver acknowledged receipt of a report entitled "Goose Rocks Beach 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Update" from Allison Kenneway. Mr. Driver explained the report deals with the reporting of DNA samples, analysis of those samples and their findings along with plans for this coming season.

Ms. Gustin made a motion to post this 4-page report on the town website. Ms. Burke seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Paul Hogan joined the meeting to speak about the State report on the Maine Healthy Beaches program and suggested this report be read very carefully as we will continue to see a bunch of problems with our water quality. Mr. Hogan cautioned against forming any generalizations that our beach contamination is due to just one source such as a faulty septic system and that the town should continue moving forward in trying to clean up the mouths of the rivers as opposed to the center of the beach. Mr. Hogan added this is a very complex situation and is a big challenge and hopes the Beach Advisory Committee continues to work on this.

Mr. Hogan's comments prompted a brief discussion with the Committee members on the locations of water lines and town sewer lines in the Goose Rocks Beach area.

Mr. Hogan also reminded the Committee members and the viewing audience that when the Beach Use Agreement was negotiated with the town, protection of this natural resource was front and center in that commitment by the town and community and that is closely aligned with water quality.

9. *Proposed amendment to dog ordinance*

Mr. Driver explained the Board of Selectmen have voted unanimously to put the Dog Ordinance changes on the warrants and will be on a ballot for a vote from the entire town.

Mr. Driver asked if there were any members of the audience who wished to comment on the proposed Dog Ordinance changes.

Mr. David Stievater of 4 Skyline Drive addressed the Committee and thanked the members for all their work. Noting the increase in volume of people coming to the beach, Mr. Stievater asked about the education piece to the Dog Ordinance changes and the short time period between the voting of the Ordinance and when the large crowds begin to arrive at Goose Rocks Beach. Ms. Burke acknowledged Mr. Stievater's concern and suggested part of the process of getting the information out to people will need to be swift and the town and Committee will look at many forms of communication including Facebook, email, print, etc.

Mr. Peter Marcus of 8 Belvidere Avenue addressed the Committee asking what the penalty is for violation of the Dog Ordinance. Mr. Driver replied he was not certain but believes it is a \$50.00 fine although the police prefer to give a warning first before issuing a ticket. Mr. Marcus commented the penalty would not serve as a deterrent for him as he would happily pay \$50.00 to let his dog run free off-leash on the beach.

10. *Summer meetings and speakers*

Mr. Driver asked the Committee members to think about summer meeting dates and what speakers they would possibly like to have at those meetings.

11. *Other business*

Ms. Sherman questioned if the town trims the bushes along Kings Highway as they are beginning to encroach into the parking spaces.

Ms. Burke asked if it could be brought to the town's attention about the impaired line of site issue at the intersection of New Biddeford Road and Winter Harbor Road.

12. *Date for next meeting*

The Committee members agreed the next meeting should be in the first two weeks of May. Mr. Driver offered to check with the town offices on the availability of meeting dates for the weeks of May 3<sup>rd</sup> or May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and inform the Committee members.

13. *Adjourn*