

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
October 4th, 2021 ~ 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on October 4th, 2021.

Members participating were Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Joanne Gustin, Paul Hogan

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

Chairman Kate Burke called the meeting to order and performed a roll call of all members of Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee.

2. Approval of minutes of August 16th, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 16th, 2021 meeting. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

3. Report on Summer Beach Season

Ms. Burke reported she received some information from the Town Manager and the Police Department; some of the items of note are:

- Total revenue from parking stickers this summer was \$187,000
- With addition of 2 parking kiosks sales of daily passes went up approximately 5,300
- Total overall beach parking stickers sold were 8,800

After some discussion and confusion on the numbers reported, Ms. Burke said she would ask the Town Manager for an audit.

Ms. Burke also reported on the feedback received from the Community Service Officers on their observations during their service this summer. Some of the comments were:

- Beach was more crowded this year
- Parking kiosk was too far away
- Perhaps need a kiosk down at the New Biddeford Road end
- Newspaper article at the beginning of the season helped the CSOs foster a rapport with the beach community
- Police Department was very helpful in assisting CSOs
- Regarding Dog Ordinance, found more difficulty dealing with locals in violation rather than tourists
- Had difficult with tag system.

Ms. Burke continued her summary of the information provided by the Town Manager adding there seemed to be more of an issue with music on the beach.

4. Review of Beach Campfires

Mr. Burke reported according to the Town Offices there were 18 campfire permits issued this year, and only one deposit was retained due to violation.

Mr. Hogan asked if it was possible to get a report from the town as has been done in years past of all the Committee's expenditures for the year. Ms. Burke replied she will speak with the Town Manager.

After some discussion the committee members agreed unanimously to delay making any formal recommendation on this subject until further information is obtained.

5. Communication Subcommittee Report

a. Continued Use of Constant Contact

Ms. Gustin reported the cost of using Constant Contact to send notices to approximately 560 contacts is between \$30-\$40 per month, which is done on average 8 times a year. 50-60% of the 560 notices sent out are opened, Ms. Gustin added, which is a higher-than-average percentage.

Ms. Burke asked the Committee members their opinion whether to keep using constant Contact or switch to another notification system.

Mr. Hogan suggested continuing using Constant Contact and perhaps use it more to send out educational, natural resources informational emails on a more regular basis. Another suggestion is to have a website created specifically for holding information about the Committee, beach rules, and also updates or information from the various sub-committees as well.

After much discussion, Ms. Burke summarized the Committee members comments as such:

1. Keep Constant Contact for now
2. Possibly create a webpage within the town website
3. Continue keeping Facebook as an active source of information.

b. Creation of Beach Webpage

This topic was discussed previously.

c. Signage

Mr. Fred Stafford joined the Committee members and shared several images of the signs at all the entrances along Goose Rocks Beach as well as several examples of signage at other area beaches. After Mr. Stafford's lengthy presentation, the Committee members discussed various ideas to consolidate signs and agreed to continue to keep this topic a priority for the Communications Subcommittee.

d. FOGRB Facebook

This topic was discussed previously.

6. *Natural Resources Subcommittee Report*

a. Dune Grass Staking and Kayak Rack Removal

Mr. Hogan announced the stakes and twine will be taken down on Monday, October 11th and will meet at the corner of Proctor Avenue and Kings Highway at 10:00a.m.

Mr. Dykstra announced the kayak storage racks will be removed on Friday, October 22nd at 1:00pm again meeting at the corner of Proctor Avenue and Kings Highway. Volunteers for either date are most welcome.

b. Endangered Birds

Ms. Sherman reported with the plovers in Florida, the beach has entered the migratory season for birds with many difference species visiting this year.

c. Water pollution issues

Mr. Hogan asked if the season ending meeting with the Town Manager and the Water Quality Testing agency should be conducted with the Beach Advisory Committee at their next meeting or with the Natural Resources Subcommittee. The committee members agreed the water quality report should be presented at the next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting.

7. *Traffic & Safety Subcommittee Report*

Mr. Engel reported the subcommittee has put together some suggestions, observations, and ideas together and are in the process of setting up some time to meet with Laurie Smith and the Police Chief later in the month.

8. *Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda*

Ms. Gustin raised the issue of a lack of public restrooms at the beach, especially at the New Biddeford end.

9. *Other Business*

Ms. Burke noted at the next Beach Advisory committee election there will be one back lot seat open for election and 2 beachfront seats opening.

10. *Future Meetings*

Ms. Burke agreed to check with the Town Offices for available meeting dates in November.

11. *Adjourn*