

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15th, 2021 ~ 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom)

A virtual meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on November 15th, 2021.

Members participating were Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Carol Sherman, Barry Engel, Paul Hogan, Jennifer Wasserman, Ed Hutchins

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 October 4th, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4th, 2021 meeting. Ms. Sherman seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Hutchins abstained from voting.

3. Update on Summer Beach Season Report

This agenda item has been deferred until the next meeting.

4. Review of Beach Campfires

Ms. Burke explained as of July 18th, 2021 the town removed the moratorium on allowing campfires at the beach with some minor changes to the permitting process. According to the Police Department who issues the fire permits, Ms. Burke explained there were a total 18 fire permits issued this summer with only 1 deposit retained by the town for violation of the permitting rules.

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to continue allowing campfires at the beach with the current rules in place for permits. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion.

The Committee members discussed this issue briefly.

Ms. Cheryl Demarre addressed the Committee in support of continuing to allow campfires at the beach and stated the new deposit amount of \$250 is a bit excessive in her opinion.

There was a brief discussion about the ability of the town offices to be able to accept electronic currency as currently deposits for fire permits can only be accepted in the form of cash, check or money order.

From discussions with the town officials, Ms. Burke commented the town is taking a significant look at the town website and is aware there is a need to upgrade some of the town's technologies to bring them into the 21st century.

The motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to lift the moratorium for next summer and allow for fire permits to be issued at the beach next summer with a follow-up review in the fall, was passed with a unanimous vote of the Committee members.

Ms. Sherman asked if the Fire Chief could review the new permitting rules for beach fires and provide any comments or suggestions. Ms. Burke agreed to speak with the Town Manager.

5. Communication Subcommittee Report

Ms. Burke thanked the many members of the subcommittees for all of their work and asked for Ms. Connie Dykstra and Mr. Fred Stafford to be promoted as panelists to join the discussion on this agenda item.

- *Creation of Beach Webpage*

Ms. Burke gave a brief summary of the subcommittee's proposal for a possible separate webpage much like the Police Department's and the Solid Waste Committee's. A detailed discussion occurred.

Ms. Burke explained the next step is to compose a mock-up of what we would like to see on the Goose Rocks Beach page and submit that to the Committee for comments before presenting it to the town.

- *Signage*

Ms. Burke gave a summary of the subcommittee's discussions on this item. Mr. Fred Stafford provided more details as to the proposed consolidation of the signs at the beach. A more formal proposal will be provided at a future meeting.

Mr. William Van Benthuyzen of 23 Winter Harbor Road addressed the Committee to voice his support of consolidating and streamlining the signs at the beach.

- *FOGRB Facebook*

Ms. Burke thanked Ms. Audrey Lakin for the terrific job she has been doing with the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page.

6. *Natural Resources Subcommittee Report*

- *Management Plan for Dune Grass Restoration and Preservation*

Mr. Hogan explained he and Mr. Dykstra will work over the winter on a management plan based on the state's recommendations for dune grass preservation and restoration.

Mr. Hogan also raised the issue of requesting the town to replace the sand that gets washed up onto the road from the beach after bad storms. There was a brief discussion as to whether returning the sand to the beach will require a Permit By Rule from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Hogan made a motion to ask the town, consistent with Maine DEP regulations, to put the sand back on the beach when it washes into the road. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- *Update on Water Testing Issues*

Mr. Hogan announced a date will be determined in the future to have a report presented to the Committee on the water testing and results from the summer. Mr. Dykstra added that the DNA testing is just about complete and should have a report on that soon.

Mr. Dykstra also commented it has been interpreted by some to think there is a crisis at Goose Rocks Beach which just isn't the case as the data is still being analyzed and will need to be determined whether it is truly an issue or if it is in the natural cycle of marshes.

Ms. Sherman asked for an update on the new curbside recycling program. Mr. Dykstra replied the program is going really well and has not cost the town a nickel above the contracted value and we have not incurred a single penalty.

- *Return of Sand to Beach After Storms*

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. *Traffic & Safety Subcommittee Report*

Mr. Engle reported he along with Mr. Art Lemay and Mr. Tom Adler, have been soliciting input from the community and asking for suggestions/comments on traffic and will compile all that information into a more formal proposal to be presented at a future meeting.

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

There were no comments from the viewing audience at this time.

9. *Other Business*

There were no other topics to be discussed at this time.

10. *Future Meetings*

After speaking with the town offices, Ms. Burke presented to the Committee the possibility of establishing a set day of the week each month for Beach Advisory Committee meetings to provide more consistency. After some discussion it was decided that BAC meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of every month starting in January of 2022.

11. *Adjourn*