

**Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Minutes
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Monday, June 6, 2016**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, June 6, 2016. The meeting convened at 6:30 pm in the Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Robert Sherman, William Nixon, Kate Bauer Burke, Richard Driver, John Gorny, Joanne Gustin, Michael Weston, Sheila Matthews-Bull (Selectman Representative)

Others Present: Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. *Call to Order*

Mr. Sherman called the meeting to order.

2. *Introduction of Members*

Mr. Sherman welcomed the new members and all Committee members introduced themselves.

3. *Approval of Minutes of May 9 Meeting*

The minutes of the May 9th meeting were approved unanimously without any amendments or additions.

4. *Public Comments on matters not included on agenda*

Ms. Barbara Barwise expressed appreciation for the installation of dune grass signs on the beach. Mr. Sherman expressed appreciation to all those who participated the previous weekend in beach clean-up.

5. *Election of Committee Leadership (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)*

Mr. Weston nominated Mr. Driver as Chair. Ms. Matthews-Bull nominated Mr. Nixon as Vice Chair and Ms. Burke as Secretary. After secret ballot tallied by Ms. Smith, she confirmed the election of each person nominated.

6. *Drones at the Beach*

Ms. Smith reported that the language submitted by the Committee regarding drones at the Beach was reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and by Town Counsel Amy Tchao. Because there is no town ordinance currently dealing with drone usage, prohibitive language might put an undue enforcement burden on town police. Town Counsel suggested the language be changed to "The Town of Kennebunkport requests no drone use at Goose Rocks Beach", to be accompanied by a visual of a drone encircled with a line through it. After brief discussion, the Committee unanimously concurred with the proposal as reviewed by Town Counsel. Ms. Smith noted that the drone signs would be placed at a few key locations such as beach entrances at Dyke Rd, The Tides Inn, Jeffry's Way, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust beach property and at the West End.

7. *Sub-Committees*

The Committee unanimously voted to affirm that it will maintain the following Sub-Committees: Communications, Natural Resources and Traffic Safety.

Communications: Mr. Nixon and Ms Gustin volunteered to participate in the Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Smith suggested that the Subcommittee continue issuing the e-newsletter that has been distributed several times during the year.

Natural Resources: Ms. Burke and Mr. Nixon volunteered to participate in the Natural Resources Subcommittee. Ms. Carol Sherman described for the new members the activities of the Natural Resources Committee and suggested that the Committee continue its well-received Facebook page.

Traffic Safety: Mr. Weston and Mr. Driver agreed to continue participating in this sub-committee.

8. *Committee Reports*

Ms. Smith reported that new beach signs have been installed and the revised brochures have been distributed.

Ms. Carol Sherman reported on the status of the piping plovers nesting season, the Audubon Society intern position, and the seal pups who had been stranded on the beach. She also reported that two plover caution signs have been removed and asked that people please follow the rules of the beach to protect the endangered species.

9. *Town Manager Report*

Ms Smith provided the following information:

- Public Works will soon begin trimming along parking spaces and access points and will install "No Wake Zone" buoys in the rivers
- As of the end of May, the Committee has spent \$29,333 with approximately \$21,000 for beach patrol payroll, \$4,795 for the invasive species project, \$700 for the beach profiling project, and \$2,750 for signs, brochures and magnets.
- A request has been received by the Town that another handicap access ramp, similar to the one at the Edgewood access path, be installed at the Broadway access. It does not appear that the Broadway access path is wide enough to accommodate that type of access ramp and Jeffrey's Way access path is being considered as an alternative site. An additional access ramp is not something the Town has budgeted for and the Town would like the Committee's input. Ms. Barwise pointed out that Jeffrey's Way is the access point used for emergency vehicles and that Fire Chief Alan Moir be consulted. She also requested that Public Works clean the Edgewood access ramp of sand and seaweed to restore its functionality. After a brief discussion, the Committee asked the Town Manager to research the practicality and feasibility of installing an additional handicap access ramp at the Jeffrey's Way access path.
- In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Smith reported that additional trash bins would be placed at the beach access points the week of June 15. She also reported that items left outside the trash barrels are not picked up the trash collectors but would be picked up periodically by Public Works.

Mr. Driver expressed thanks to the Public Works Department for the new walkway recently installed along New Biddeford Rd.

10. *Set Summer Meeting Dates*

Meetings will tentatively take place during the weeks of July 18th and August 15th. Specific dates will be determined following Mr. Driver's research of availability of either the Goose Rocks Beach Fire House or the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Headquarters as meeting sites.

11. *Other New Business*

Ms. Burke suggested the possibility of having a speaker at one of the summer meetings.

Mr. Driver suggested that new members consider setting up new email accounts to be used solely for town business in order to keep all such correspondence separate from personal correspondence.

12. *Adjourn*