

**Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Minutes
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Monday, July 18, 2016**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, July 18, 2016. The meeting convened at 6:30 pm in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, Robert Sherman, William Nixon, Kate Bauer Burke, John Gorny, and Joanne Gustin.

Others Present: Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. *Call to Order*

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2. *Introduction of Members*

All members introduced themselves.

3. *Approval of Minutes of May 9 Meeting*

The minutes of the June 6th meeting were approved unanimously without any amendments or additions.

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

Ms. Ann Murphy of Dorrance Avenue addressed the Committee with a concern about traffic on Wildwood Avenue near Community House Road and noted that there was a large 18-wheeler Sysco truck blocking most of the road on its way to The Tides Inn. Ms. Smith responded should that situation arise again, people are encouraged to call the town office or the police department who can speak to The Tides Inn management. There were no further public comments.

5. *Committee Reports*

-- *Communications*

Mr. Nixon reported the new signage, including the new language regarding drones, have been installed at the beach. He also noted that the Facebook page continues to be popular and is updated regularly by Carol Sherman. There will also be an e-newsletter in the near future and he asked if anyone had any ideas for articles or contributions for the newsletter to forward them to the Committee soon.

-- *Natural Resources*

Ms. Carol Sherman addressed the Committee to provide the following information:

- a. First nesting of piping plovers produced 4 successful fledglings.
- b. Second nesting currently has two nests, both at the west end. Four chicks have hatched. The second nest at the west end is due to hatch very soon.
- c. Least terns have arrived at Goose Rocks Beach with several nests in the west end area.
- d. A more complete report along with pictures and videos can be found on the *Friends of Goose Rocks Beach* Facebook page.

Mary Ellen Lemay of 176 Kings Highway provided an update on the removal of invasive species and replanting of native shrubs. Last October a lot of invasive bittersweet and rosa rugosa was removed and over 2,000 native shrubs and perennials were planted. Unfortunately due to the dry weather many of these new plantings have died and will have to be replaced. Another work day will be scheduled before the end of the summer. Ms. Lemay circulated a sign-up sheet asking for volunteers to help with the work.

--Traffic Safety

There was nothing new to report from this committee.

6. Fireworks at the Beach

Mr. Driver reminded the audience that, while fireworks are legal in Maine, the Board of Selectmen has decided to ban the sale or use of fireworks with the Town and any use of fireworks should be reported to the police. It was noted by several members of the audience that fireworks were heard in the area over July 4th weekend. Mr. Driver reminded the audience that fireworks pose a fire danger and cited an incident last summer when a beach grass fire ignited by fireworks threatened a nearby house at the beach. In response to an audience question, Mr. Driver noted that the fireworks prohibition is mentioned in the beach brochure and that local realtors have also been informed.

7. Town Manager Report

Ms. Smith provided the following information:

- Beach sticker sales have been average for all types of passes (daily, weekly, seasonal).
- There have been 16 dog violations issued and 2 fireworks complaints logged.
- All beach signs have been installed (which includes the signs requesting no use of drones) and the lobster trap debris mentioned at the last BAC meeting has been removed.

Mr. Sherman commented that four signs identifying the West End Plover Protection Area have been removed and requested that they be reinstalled. He also complimented the Town for supporting efforts to protect endangered species and noted that people have mostly been following the dog beach rules.

8. Presentation by Marine Mammals of New England

Ms. Meg Barry gave a brief introduction of the guest speakers from Marine Mammals of New England (MMoNE): Dominique Walk, Assistant Stranding Coordinator; Volunteers Bill and Renee Barthelman, Karen Reiche,, and Allison Kenneway who is also Kennebunkport's Registered Nurse and Assistant Director of Public Health.

Ms. Walk presented a slide show/video on the many activities of MMoNE including:

- Providing public education about marine mammals and sea turtles over 2,500 miles of ME coastline.
- Highlighting the guidelines of the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Maine Marine Animal Reporting Hotline
- Providing education on normal behavior of seals and cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and on how humans can disrupt that behavior and endanger the welfare of the mammals, particularly with regard to young seals found on beaches.

Ms. Walk and Ms. Barthelman discussed the cogent need for a marine mammal rehabilitation center in ME which has none since the UNE Center closed in 2014. While MMoNE does have a triage facility now, it cannot take stranded mammals there until an opening is available in one of the two rehab facilities in CT or Boston. They also pointed out that MMoNE is a non-profit organization that relies heavily on volunteers. Ms. Walk concluded by outlining the response and options currently available when a call is placed to the 24-hr reporting hotline. Ms. Barry added that there is more information regarding MMoNE on the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page.

9. Other New Business

There were no further comments from the audience in attendance. Mr. Driver announced that the next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire House. There will be a presentation on landscaping using native plants and on invasive species. All are welcome to attend.

10. On motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.