

**Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Minutes
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Wednesday, August 17, 2016**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. The meeting convened at 6:30 pm in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver (Chair), 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. *Approval of Minutes of July 18 Meeting*

The minutes of the July 18th meeting were approved unanimously without any amendments or additions.

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

Gordon Thomas (23 Prescott Rd) complimented all those who worked to produce the beach brochures and signage. Mr. Driver acknowledged Katie Nixon, Meg Barry, and Paul Hogan as the authors of the brochures and signage. All in attendance gave them an appreciative round of applause.

4. *Committee Reports*

-- *Communications*

Joanne Gustin accepted the position of Communications Subcommittee Chair. William Nixon, former Chair, gave a brief description of the subcommittee's activities and complimented Carol Sherman on her outstanding work on the Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page.

(Prior to completing subcommittee reports, the Committee turned to the Town Manager's report to accommodate a scheduling conflict – see summary below)

-- *Natural Resources*

Carol Sherman provided the following information on GRB piping plovers as of 8/15:

6 pairs of plovers, 7 nests (5 hatched, one swept away by a high tide, one abandoned), 16 chicks hatched, 8 chicks fledged. In response to an audience question, Ms. Sherman reported that GRB and OOB each had a 50% survival rate, while Wells had a higher rate. Mr. Driver commented that while dog owners have acted very responsibly in keeping their dogs away from nesting sites, there has been a serious problem with cat owners letting their cats wander free to attack plover nests. One specific instance of a domestic cat wandering loose near plover nests was reported by Paul Hogan and forwarded to Maine Audubon. Mr. Driver pointed out that the fine to an owner of an animal disturbing a protected plover nest could be as high as \$25,000.

--*Traffic Safety*

There was nothing new to report from this committee.

5. *Town Manager Report*

Laurie Smith, Town Manager, provided the following information, current as of 8/15/16:

- Beach sticker sales: approximately 2,500 Resident, 3,500 daily, 232 weekly, and 208 seasonal.
- 18 dog violations recorded (16 last year)

- 549 parking violations recorded (479 last year)
- 3 fireworks complaints (6 last year).
- miscellaneous calls the police or beach safety patrol responded to: drinking on the beach, model rocket use, sleeping on the beach

Ms. Smith reported on the trash situation at the beach. There has been an increase in the number of beach items (broken beach chairs, umbrellas, toys, etc.) left at the Rights of Way. The Town has increased the number of receptacles at some points. The regular trash contractor only empties the trash receptacles but does not pick up the oversized items left by the beach entrances. The Town does a large trash pickup of oversized items on Monday and Friday. In addition, there is a problem with what appears to be household trash being left in or beside the trash receptacles. Ms. Gustin asked if there appears to be heavier use of the beach this year possibly contributing to the higher trash load. Ms. Smith replied that based on parking space usage, July appeared a bit lighter than usual but August is very crowded. There were suggestions from the audience regarding labeling the trash bins stating no broken beach items or household trash and possibly more coverage of the trash areas by the safety patrol officers. Judy Corello (Kings Lane) asked if recycling bins could be placed next to the trash bins. Ms. Smith replied that the Town may have some bottle recycling bins that could be placed a few of the entrances.

Mr. Driver commented that beach residents are very thankful to have the safety patrol officers.

Ray St. Laurent (Kings Hwy) questioned the increase in parking along Dyke Rd and New Biddeford Rd. Mr. Driver replied that there are 173 designated parking spaces according to the Beach Use Agreement which includes parking along those two roads even though the spaces are not delineated.

8. Presentation by 21st Century Landscape and Lawn Alternatives on "How To Avoid The "Linoleum Syndrome" And Attract Pollinators and Birds"

Mary Ellen Lemay first thanked all the volunteers who helped remove some of the invasive plants along the dune grass and commented that the new plants are doing very well. She then introduced Michael Nadeau who is currently teaching a certification course on organic land care. Mr. Nadeau, a native Mainer, has been in the landscaping business since he was a young boy and has noticed a change in the landscape not only at Goose Rocks Beach but all over Maine in the past few years. Mr. Nadeau gave a slideshow presentation focusing on utilizing native plants, how to get rid of invasive species, how best to preserve the dune grass, and how to help change the current culture of landscaping. The entire presentation can be viewed on the Town of Kennebunkport's website under Meeting Videos.

9. Other New Business

There was no other new business discussed nor any further questions or comments from the audience.

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