

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
6:30 PM Meeting Agenda

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, January 24th, 2017. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, William Nixon, Kate Bauer Burke, Bob Sherman, Mike Weston, Sheila Matthews-Bull
Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. Call to Order

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 21st Meeting

The minutes of the October 21, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comments on matters not included on agenda

Mr. Driver asked the audience in attendance if they had any comments or topics to bring before the Committee. There were no comments from the audience members at this time.

4. Sub-Committee Reports

There were no reports from the Communications or the Traffic Safety Subcommittees.

Natural Resources Subcommittee recommendation:

As a continuation from one of last summer's guest speaker (Lawns for Lobsters), Mr. Nixon asked the Committee for permission to host a site walk event on a Saturday in July to view examples of freedom lawns and the use of native Maine species as alternative landscaping options. This event would be open to anyone interested in viewing local freedom lawns in the beach area. Mr. Driver suggested the Natural Resources Subcommittee contact the persons responsible for the Lawns For Lobsters project. Ms. Smith informed the Committee the town has a Conservation Commission that oversees the Lawns For Lobsters program and offered to provide Mr. Nixon with the contact information. A motion to approve the concept of the Natural Resources Committee, either on its own or in conjunction with the Conservation Commission, sponsoring an open house at various properties, primarily in the Goose Rocks Beach area, was unanimously adopted.

5. Information re Sandy Pines and a new cluster development on New Biddeford Road

Mr. Driver explained the Sandy Pines property will have approximately 320 campsites for tents or trailers with restroom facilities and a large activity room that is being renovated. Mr. Driver further stated that while the Committee is concerned about the impact the Sandy Pines Campground will have on the beach, the project is not within the Committee's jurisdiction.

Ms. Smith confirmed the Sandy Pines Campground is upgrading their restrooms, the main lodge area and the septic systems.

Mr. Driver noted there was an article in the January 13th, 2017 edition of Boston Magazine about the Sandy Pines campground advertising "A high-end campground is coming to Kennebunkport this summer". Mr. Driver also noted the owners of the campground are selling trailers and renting trailer sites along with advertising amenities on the property to include a swimming pool, a small general store and an ice cream stand.

Mr. Driver also voiced his concern whether Sandy Pines will offer transportation via a passenger van to the beach as other developments in town currently do.

Mr. Driver also commented that one of the reasons Sandy Pines is open seasonally is because they only have water service from April 15th to October 15th. Robert Convery of Skyline Drive asked if there were plans to run water lines up Dyke Road to the campground.

That same audience member also voiced the following items of concern:

- Arundel Cottage Development bussing guests to/from Goose Rocks Beach.
- Safety of having bigger vehicles on Kings Hwy.
- Large food truck deliveries to The Tides Inn causing traffic confusion along Wildwood Avenue and Kings Hwy.

Mr. Driver asked Town Manager Laurie Smith if she had any information regarding water service to Sandy Pines. Ms. Smith explained water service to Sandy Pines is a residential extension using a cross-country line. The campground owners have

approached KKW Water District about extending water service through a regular main to improve their water quality and capacity up Dyke Road and down Mills Road to the campground. Ms. Smith added the campground has asked for seasonal service and are looking to increase their capacity. The Water District also asked the Town if they were interested in year-round service up Dyke Road to put a fire hydrant at the intersection of Dyke Road and Mills Road. The Fire Department is always interested in year-round service and hydrants, Ms. Smith added. There was also interest in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station connecting to the water line due to their long history of water quality issues, Ms. Smith stated.

Mr. Driver asked Ms. Smith if she had any information on the proposed new cluster development off of New Biddeford Road. Ms. Smith explained there is a 15-lot subdivision proposed that will be presented to the Planning Board in February. The subdivision will need to be on public water and sewer and they are in the midst of determining how that will occur if approved, Ms. Smith added.

Stu Tacy of New Biddeford Rd questioned the presence of capacity to connect to public water and sewer when the existing 18 homes along that stretch of New Biddeford Road were told in years past there was no capacity to connect to sewer and water. Ms. Smith responded she was not the Town Manager when those conversations occurred with the folks currently living in that section of New Biddeford Road and gave a brief explanation on the different types of capacity. Ms. Smith did admit there is a strong preference to connect the proposed subdivision along New Biddeford Road because it makes sense from a public health standpoint along with the importance of protecting the cleanliness of the river and beach. Since the town is in the beginning phases of this discussion, Ms. Smith cautioned there was not much information to confirm.

The Committee members and several members of the audience had a lengthy discussion on the number of camping sites and the condition of the septic systems on the Sandy Pines property. Several people expressed their concern whether the opening of the campground will intensify the use of Goose Rocks Beach and all the negative effects that will have on the health of the beach. Concerns were also raised by several audience members about speeding along New Biddeford Road.

Ms. Smith asked the Committee what specific information or action they would be looking for on the Town's part particularly with regard to the speeding issue. The Committee members agreed to request the Town to ask the State to review the speed limit along the congested area of New Biddeford Road. A motion requesting the Town to consider lowering the speed limit from 25mph to 20 mph along the congested area of New Biddeford Road which would extend from Kings Hwy to the sign that says "No Parking" during the summer season was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

Mr. Driver again pointed out that the Beach Advisory Committee has no authority or jurisdiction over either of the two issues being discussed (Sandy Pines Campground and the new subdivision on New Biddeford Road). Mr. Driver encouraged anyone with questions about either development to contact the Town Manager or the Code Enforcement Office.

6. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Smith did not have any further information to report other than what has already been discussed

7. Other new business

Mr. Sherman announced his term on the Committee will expire this year and asked if any beachfront owner was interested in serving on the Committee to please contact the Town Office.

8. Continuation of Public Comments

No further comments.

9. Date for next meeting

The Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting in late March or early April. Mr. Driver stated they would confirm the actual date with the Town Manager's Office in the near future.

10. Adjourn