

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Tuesday, March 28th, 2017

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 28th, 2017. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, William Nixon, Kate Bauer Burke, Joanne Gustin, Bob Sherman, Mike Weston
Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. Call to Order

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 24th Meeting

The minutes from the January 24th Beach Advisory Committee meeting were approved by a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Weston abstaining from voting since he had not attended the meeting.

3. Public Comments on matters not included on agenda

There were no comments from the audience in attendance.

4. Committee Reports:

a. Communications

Mr. Nixon raised a question as to how many beach brochures were left over from last year and available for use this coming season. Ms. Smith replied that she believes there are plenty left and will have the town staff conduct an inventory to report back to the Committee. Ms. Smith added the town distributes approximately 8,000 brochures in a summer season. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to request that the Board of Selectmen authorize sufficient funds to print additional brochures as needed to equal the same amount as used in past years.

Ms. Barbara Barwise asked the Committee if they were re-ordering new brochures to correct the language so that it is clear that parking stickers are required from the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend, not Memorial Day, to avoid the confusion of years past.

b. Natural Resources

In response to an email from Paul Hogan, Mr. Nixon reported it is time to start planning the beach Gear Grab clean-up event and asked Ms. Smith if the town could provide a dumpster again this year. Mr. Nixon added the event usually occurs on a weekend in June. Mr. Driver added the event is usually coordinated with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust's Beach Clean-up Day. Mr. Nixon offered to contact the Trust and coordinate the event with them.

Mr. Nixon also added that Mr. Hogan expressed his hope to have a large number of volunteers for the Gear Grab event and to possibly also tackle some of the removal of invasive plants during that time as well.

Mr. Nixon also reminded everyone that there are signs available at the town offices to mark the plover nesting areas. Mr. Sherman shared with the Committee and audience an example of one of the new signs for the West End Plover Protection Area and reminded everyone that April 1st is the date the dog rules change on the beach.

Lastly, Mr. Nixon asked the Committee members if they wished to fund an intern again this year in cooperation with the Audubon Society. The Committee members were all in agreement to continue hosting an intern for the summer season.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously requested the Board of Selectmen to approve the expenditure up to \$3,000 to pay for a summer intern.

Mr. Nixon announced the Natural Resources Sub-Committee will meet in the next few weeks to finalize plans for a website to be created and to host an environment-friendly gardening program entitled New Vision Coastal Landscaping. This new gardening initiative will spotlight local properties and their use of freedom lawns with possible guest speakers from the Sierra Club.

c. Traffic Safety

There were no new items to discuss on this Agenda item.

5. Beach access after snow storms

Mr. Driver noted that after snow storms, most of the beach access areas are plowed and are impassable for residents to access the beach. Mr. Driver asked Ms. Smith if she has spoken with the Public Works Department about possibly opening a few of the beach access areas. Ms. Smith responded she has spoken with Public Works and asked for clarification on which access points they wished to be cleared and exactly how far onto the beach should they be clearing.

After a brief discussion, the Committee members asked if the town could keep the Edgewood and Jeffry's Way entrances cleared for beach access. Ms. Smith responded she would inform the Highway Department.

6. Information on re-election of new member

Mr. Driver announced there will be an election this spring for a beachfront member as Mr. Sherman will be stepping down from the Beach Advisory Committee. Ms. Smith explained signers of the Beach Use Agreement should have received an update form to choose their designated voter and once those are all received the town will mail ballots out on April 20th. The ballots will be due by May 15th in Town Clerk's Office, Ms. Smith concluded.

Mr. Driver asked if anyone has come forward interested in running for the vacancy. Ms. Smith replied no one has contacted her yet. Mr. Sherman commented he has served on the Beach Advisory Committee for 4 ½ years and would be grateful if someone else would like to take his seat.

7. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Smith informed the Committee that the town has renewed the Committee's subscription with Constant Contact which is the email service used to distribute the beach newsletter. Ms. Gustin explained the newsletter goes out to approximately 550 people and have found only 320 or so actually open the file. Ms. Gustin added she distributes a newsletter every month before each meeting.

Mr. Sherman asked what the cost of using Constant Contact was. Ms. Smith replied it is \$380 per year. The Committee and Town Manager agreed to continue using Constant Contact to distribute the newsletter.

Ms. Smith also reported the Board of Selectmen agreed to ask the State of Maine to review the portion of New Biddeford Road and Dyke Road where the seasonal parking spaces are to determine if speed limit changes should be made. Lastly, Ms. Smith mentioned the town has begun the hiring process for the summer patrol.

8. Other new business

There were no new topics of discussion brought before the Committee.

9. Continuation of Public Comments

Mr. Driver asked the audience in attendance if they had any other comments for the Committee.

Ms. **Jean Ciaramentaro** sent an email asking if the Committee could discuss plowing the sidewalks on Kings Hwy after snow storms. Ms. Smith responded stating she would certainly talk to the Public Works Department about it.

Mr. Sherman reminded everyone that starting April 1st, dogs need to be on leashes on the beach. To clarify, Ms. Smith stated the rules that the Board of Selectmen have adopted establish the Plover Protection boundary at Norwood Lane. Mr. Sherman agreed with Ms. Smith's statement adding there is someone in that area that continues to remove the signs designating the area as a Plover Protection Area.

Ms. Burke reminded the audience that the leash requirement applies to the entire beach and not just the Plover Protection Area where there are stricter rules.

10. Date for next meeting

The Committee members agreed to set the next meeting date for the middle of May and schedule the meeting after confirming the availability of the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

11. Adjourn