

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Thursday, June 29th, 2017
Minutes

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, June 29th, 2017. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, Kate Bauer Burke, Joanne Gustin, Bob Sherman, Sheila Matthews-Bull
Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. Call to Order

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order.

2. Election of Officers

Mr. Sherman nominated Ms. Burke as Secretary. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Sherman nominated Mr. Driver as Chairman. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Ms. Burke nominated Mr. Nixon as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Gustin seconded the nomination and the vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 15th meeting

Ms. Matthews-Bull noted she was not present at the last meeting and would not be eligible to vote to approve the minutes. Lacking a quorum to vote on this issue, Mr. Driver deferred approval of the minutes from the May 15th meeting until the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting.

4. Public Comments on matters not included on agenda

Mr. Driver opened the meeting for any comments from the public. There were no comments or questions from the audience members.

Mr. Driver announced he has received a few emails with questions for the Committee to discuss. The first email asked for an update on the Goose Rocks Beach lawsuit, Mr. Driver stated. Ms. Smith responded stating the trial on the titles was held last November and responses for briefs were due in February. To date, Ms. Smith added, the judge has not asked for oral arguments and the town has not heard from the judge as of today. Mr. Sherman added the email asking about the lawsuit specifically asked how much money has the town spent. Ms. Matthews-Bull replied at this point the total is approximately \$1.13 million where most of that money was spend at the beginning of the lawsuit as the lawyers were doing research.

Mr. Driver stated he's received a request to have a streetlight installed at the intersection of Route 9 and New Biddeford Road. Ms. Smith replied she did forward that request to the Lighting Committee and received some feedback on the position of the light and questioned how necessary it was in that location. Mr. Sherman offered a suggestion to perhaps install a more reflective sign at that location as a possible alternative to the street light.

The last email Mr. Driver mentioned was concerning the frequency of power outages in the Goose Rocks Beach area and asked if there was anything the town could do about it or perhaps ask the Board of Selectmen to raise the issue with Central Maine Power. Ms. Smith replied that this communication was one of those subjects that is outside the authority of the Beach Advisory Committee but she would look into it.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Communications

Ms. Gustin announced she has several pamphlets and booklets with her this evening regarding the plovers or Lawns for Lobsters if any member of the audience would like one. The Beach newsletter continues to be distributed, Ms. Gustin reported, adding she will be more diligent on monitoring email communications to the Beach Advisory Committee. Ms. Gustin also asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help with the management of the Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page to please contact her. Ms. Burke stated she and her husband may be able to help with keeping the Facebook page up to date.

b. Natural Resources

There was nothing new to report for this sub-committee.

c. Traffic Safety

Mr. Driver asked for an update on the Committee's request to the Board of Selectmen to approach the state on decreasing the speed limit on New Biddeford Road and Dyke Road where the parking areas are located. Ms. Smith responded a letter was sent to the state and the town has not heard back as yet.

6. Plover Report

Ms. Carol Sherman addressed the Committee to report the state has identified 61 adult plover pairs with 42 chicks being hatched. Goose Rocks Beach has 8 adult plover pairs with 5 active nests and no chicks yet. Ms. Sherman added the Audubon Intern has noticed some dog footprints within the staked/twined area and asked the public to be more careful with their dogs in the plover protection areas. Ms. Sherman concluded stating the least terns have added 2 new nests which brings the total number of nests to 6 for the them.

7. Beach clean-up Report

Mr. Sherman noted the Beach Clean-Up day was big success and thanked all of those who helped with removing debris from the beach as well as assisting with eliminating some of the invasive plants along the beach area.

8. Update on Trash Pick-up in the Fall and Spring

Mr. Driver asked if it were possible to have a second barrel placed at beach access points to accommodate the increased volume which has been a continuing problem. Ms. Smith replied that the town would provide additional bins.

- 9. Update on Bathroom at GRB:* Ms. Smith reported that there is no current plan for a public bathroom to be installed. Ms. Smith also added she has spoken to the owner of the Tides Inn who continues to state the public is welcome to use their restroom and the owner is still speaking to his investors about installing a more accessible restroom for the public. The Committee members had a brief discussion on where a port-a-potty could be located at the beach. Ms. Smith stated it is a priority to have a restroom at the beach for many reasons and believes the Tides Inn collaboration is the best option right now.

10. Responding to Emails to BAC

This Agenda item was discussed previously during the meeting.

11. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Smith reminded everyone that consumer fireworks are illegal in the town of Kennebunkport asked anyone who sees people lighting fireworks on the beach to please call the police. Ms. Smith also stated the town will not issue beach fire permits during very dry periods on days when the state has issued bans on fire permits.

Mr. Driver asked how many safety officers are there at the beach. Ms. Smith replied there are a total of six officers but only 5 are at the beach with one in the dock square area.

Ms. Smith also noted that those property owners who are would be affected by the new FEMA flood maps should have received a card from the town in the mail. The town is considering appealing the new maps and are considering a regional approach with other towns in the county. Ms. Smith noted the potential cost for the town could be in the range of \$60,000 to \$80,000 depending on how many towns and cities get involved. Ms. Smith also noted the town is interested if any private citizens would like to contribute in the appeal. It is estimated the appeal process will begin sometime in July or August.

12. Other new business

Mr. Driver mentioned he received an email from Mr. Paul Hogan stating there is a beach wheelchair that is now available for anyone's use near the ramp at Edgewood Avenue. Anyone who would like to use it can contact Marty Forbes at 967-4648 or Paul Hogan at 370-9309 to get the key and asked that you please return the key when you are done using the wheelchair.

13. Continuation of Public Comments

There were no comments from the audience in attendance.

14. Date for Summer Meetings

The Committee members discussed holding the next two meetings at the Goose Rocks Fire Station and about possible educational presentations, such as the anniversary of the great fire, at those meetings. Committee members will set meeting dates after communicating with possible speakers. Mr. Sherman offered the idea of holding only 5 meetings a year in the months of April/May, June, July August, and November. The Committee members had a brief discussion about the number and timing of their meetings during the year.

15. Adjourn

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned