

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee**  
**Kennebunkport Village Fire Station, 32 North Street**  
**Monday, May 21, 2018**  
**6:30 PM Meeting**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday May 21st, 2018. 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, Bill Nixon, Mike Weston

*1. Call to Order*

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

*2. Approval of Minutes of March 19th meeting*

Mr. Nixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting. Ms. Gustin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Driver asked the audience in attendance if they had any questions or comments they'd like to bring to the Committee. There were no comments or questions.

*4. Friends of Goose Rocks Beach Facebook page*

Mr. Driver noted Ms. Burke had asked to have this item placed on tonight's Agenda.

Ms. Burke expressed concern about the nature of a few postings recently placed on the *Friends of Goose Rocks Beach* Facebook page. Ms. Burke acknowledged she is limited in her knowledge of the mechanics of the Facebook page and noted it is and has been a helpful tool in communicating information to the beach community as a whole, especially regarding notices of meetings and other community events along with the many, many pictures of Goose Rocks Beach. Directed to those in attendance and those folks watching the meeting, Ms. Burke asked for assistance in monitoring and posting to the page to ensure its being administered appropriately.

Mr. Driver asked what type of postings were put on the site that she felt were inappropriate. Ms. Burke replied there was one posting looking for a summer rental and another was of a more personal nature. Ms. Burke clarified she is unsure of the original intention of the Facebook page and whether it was originally designed as a community bulletin board.

Ms. Kate Nixon addressed the Committee stating as a former Beach Advisory Committee member she was part of the group that started the Facebook page with the purpose to generate excitement about activities going on about the beach and to be able to publicize events. One of the possible perils of Facebook, Ms. Nixon continued, is that anyone can post on your wall but there are a few people that have editing privileges which means they can post and delete things that we don't want on the wall.

A brief discussion on the mechanisms of a Facebook group continued among the Committee members, Ms. Nixon and Ms. Carol Sherman, who is also one of the editors of the Facebook page.

Ms. Sherman commented that since the inception of the Facebook it has grown to well over 2,500 members and with that growth it should have a director/editor to monitor it.

Ms. Burke asked if anyone was interested in helping with the monitoring of the Facebook page to please contact the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dave Powell, Town of Kennebunkport's Videographer offered to quickly show some features administrators of a Facebook page/group can utilize to Ms. Burke and anyone else who was interested after tonight's meeting.

*5. Spring Cleanup Report*

Mr. Driver announced the spring clean-up that took place on May 12 and actually started earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup>, was a big success.

Mr. Sherman added the town provided 1 full-sized dumpster and 1 half-sized dumpster for the clean-up and both were filled with debris from the beach. Mr. Sherman also expressed his personal appreciation to the 30+ volunteers who helped make a real difference and especially thanked Mr. Paul Hogan for organizing the day.

#### *6. Natural Resources Report*

Mr. Paul Hogan addressed the Committee and thanked all those who helped with the beach clean-up. Mr. Hogan also reported there are 5 pairs of plovers at the beach this season, 2 nests have been surrounded and only 1 egg so far.

As part of the Safe Beaches program, Mr. Hogan announced there will be increased testing of the water this summer in locations further up the rivers to determine possible sources of contamination. A report will be compiled at the end of the summer, Mr. Hogan added.

Mr. Hogan also suggested the Committee begin discussions about the role of the town, the beach residents, etc. regarding preparedness and clean-up from storm events.

Mr. John Kraeuter suggested the town should get bags of sand, stockpile them on pallets and place them at the 5 major pathways to the beach before a major storm happens to help mitigate some of the damage caused.

Mr. Sherman commented on Mr. Hogan's suggestion that the Beach Use Agreement is not a beach ownership agreement and regardless of ownership, we as a town and its members, should take responsibility for the preservation of the beach. As an example of ownership and the recognition on use of private facilities, Mr. Sherman read through some conditions of approval the Planning Board recently place on the Sandy Pines Campground Site Plan Application.

Mr. Driver also attended the same Planning Board meeting Mr. Sherman was referring to; however, Mr. Driver stated he felt the Planning Board was less than diligent in terms of requiring a full wetland study be conducted and in forcing the Applicant to be strict stewards in caring for the environment.

#### *7. July, August Meetings at GRB – Presentations*

Mr. Driver announced it is the Beach Advisory Committee's custom to hold their July and August meetings at the Goose Rocks Beach Firehouse and to have a guest speaker at each meeting. Mr. Driver added one recommendation for a presentation topic is to have a representative from the state to discuss the health of the marsh and their preservation efforts. Mr. John Kraeuter offered to help arrange this presentation, noting it is not the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that would be speaking as they are the agency that sends the scientists to conduct all the testing on the marsh. Mr. Kraeuter also noted they would be available preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August. Mr. Driver offered to contact the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Chief, Noel Graydon to see what days were available to hold the meeting at the Fire House.

Other suggestions for topics for presentations were offered such as the status of the beach litigation and storm preparedness and clean-up. The Committee members had a brief discussion of possible topics and dates for the July and August meetings. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Driver agreed to follow-up on presenters and meeting room availability.

#### *8. 2018 BAC Elections*

Mr. Driver announced the Beach Advisory Committee did hold elections last month. Mr. Driver's and Mr. Russ Gorney's terms expired this year. Mr. Gorney chose not to run for re-election. Mr. Driver and Jr. Jim Mulvihill were elected onto the Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Mike Weston's term also expires this year and he will not be running for re-election. Mr. Weston's replacement will be determined at the town's election in June.

In appreciation of his many contributions and participation in the Beach Advisory Committee, Mr. Sherman presented Mr. Weston with a gift. The Committee and audience gave Mr. Weston a round of applause.

#### *9. Town Manager's Report*

Mr. Driver read through an outline of the Town Manager's report submitted to the Committee prior to this meeting. Some of the items mentioned in the report are as follows:

- In response to complaints about speeding and not stopping at stop signs at the intersection of Kings Hwy and New Biddeford Road, they have done some surveillance and issued a number of warnings.
- There will be a final paving of New Biddeford Road after the Binnacle Hill Subdivision is complete
- New striping of New Biddeford Road will begin in June
- The state has denied the town's request to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph on the congested end of New Biddeford Road towards Kings Hwy
- The Beach Advisory Committee requested the town re-file the request to reduce the speed limit citing the addition of the Binnacle Hill Subdivision
- At the request of BAC, a report from the Police Department and the Public Works Department will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss a possible speed bump be installed on New Biddeford Road

- The Community Safety Officers have been hired and will begin patrols on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Driver also noted there was a separate email from the Town Manager about the significant safety issues that arose at last year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Mr. Driver noted this is not an issue for the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee but the town has informed the Goose Rocks Beach Association they will need to take actions so the streets are not blocked with illegally parked cars to provide emergency vehicle access.

#### *10. Other New Business*

There were no items raised for discussion at this time.

#### *11. Date for Next Meeting*

A suggestion to hold the next meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> was offered. Mr. Driver offered to confirm room availability with the town office.

#### *12. Further Public Comments*

Mr. Driver asked the audience in attendance if they have any further comments.

Ms. Cheryl Poole of 7R Sand Point Road addressed the Committee and read a brief letter regarding people trespassing on their property and causing a disturbance until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Ms. Poole raised the issue because in speaking with the Police Officers who responded to their complaints, she was asked if she was a signer of the Beach Use Agreement. Ms. Poole emphasized she did feel she was without recourse by signing the Beach Use Agreement but it was the approach was different and her options were limited. Ms. Poole asked the Beach Advisory Committee if they would contemplate serving the beachfront property owner members to see if they would consider placing a time constraint on the "permission" granted to use that land; i.e. from 6:00am to midnight.

Mr. Driver responded that it does not seem to be an issue addressed by the Beach Use Agreement but rather a use of the beach in general and offered to have a discussion with the town manager and the Chief of Police about her suggestion.

At the request of Mr. Driver, Ms. Poole provided a copy of her letter to each of the Committee members.

Mr. Driver also offered his opinion that if the town was receptive to the issue, it should be a rule in terms of use of the beach not a signatory of the Beach Use Agreement.

Mr. Sherman also acknowledged Mr. Russ Gorney's contribution and participation on the Beach Advisory Committee and thanked him for his service.

#### *13. Adjourn*