

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station
Monday, February 4, 2019
6:30 PM Meeting

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday February 4th, 2019. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, Bob Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jim Mulvihill, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes of November 19th, 2018

This Agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

3. Public comments on matter not on the Agenda

Mr. Driver opened the meeting up to comments from the audience in attendance and asked all those who wish to address the Committee to please use the podium.

Mr. Alex Lacchiatto of Goose Rocks Beach addressed the Committee to ask if the town is part of the study among other coastal communities with regards to beach erosion and storm surge. Town Manager Laurie Smith responded the town does participate in the Beach Profiling program each summer and knows that Kennebunk has been in a study in terms of storm surges. Mr. Lacchiatto then asked if it was something the town might consider participating in in the future. Ms. Smith responded this was a subject she was not prepared to discuss at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Lacchiatto also requested if the town could possibly have a quicker response for plowing of the sidewalks on Kings Hwy after a storm as it took 5 days for the sidewalks to be cleared after the last snowstorm.

4. Dates for filing for BAC election

Mr. Driver explained the Committee holds elections every year for various seats. The election is not open to the entire town as only signers of the Beach Use Agreement are allowed to participate, Mr. Driver stated and explained the process by which each household can designate their voting representative. The timeline for elections is as follows:

- March 1st : Letters will be mailed to all eligible beachfront and back-lot owners to update who the designated representative of the household is.
- April 1st : Applications will be sent out to anyone who wants to run for a position on the Committee.
- April 22nd : Ballots will be mailed to all voting households
- May 17th : All ballots are due into the Town Offices.

This year, Mr. Driver explained, there are 2 seats up for election for beachfront property owners and 1 seat for a backlot property owner.

5. Discussion of Residents only designation for Jeffrey's Way

Mr. Driver stated at the last meeting there was a discussion and vote to recommend Jeffrey's Way be made a Residents Only street due to safety concerns. After requesting the Police Chief and Town

Manager to possibly seek an alternative location for the handicapped space to be moved off of Jeffrey's Way, Mr. Driver announced there is no other viable location so the spot will have to remain where it is.

Mr. Dykstra asked if it was possible to move the handicapped spot closer to the beach so it would be less obstructive to traffic. Mr. Driver noted to ask the Police Chief if that was a viable option.

After the Committee's vote to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to designate Jeffrey's Way a Resident's Only lane, Mr. Driver stated the primary kayak delivery owner was notified and has submitted several emails objecting to the recommendation.

Ms. Smith asked if a member of the Committee could attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting on the 28th to discuss their recommendation. Mr. Sherman agreed to attend the Selectmen's meeting.

Ms. Jana DiCostanzo, an oceanfront homeowner near Jeffrey's Way, addressed the Committee to voice her concerns regarding enforcement of violators if the street is deemed as a Resident's Only road. Mr. Driver explained currently it is a public street so anyone is allowed to travel on it; the recommendation to make the street a resident's only lane is to preclude people from dropping off and any commercial activities such as kayak deliveries. Mr. Driver did caution that enforcement is not going to be a top priority for the Police Department.

6. Discussion of handicap parking space on Jeffrey's Way

This Agenda item was covered at the last Committee meeting.

7. Presentation on water quality testing and DNA results

At the last Beach Advisory Meeting, Mr. Driver announced, there was a presentation on the Maine Healthy Beaches Program and water testing performed during the past summer and tonight there is an update on some of that information.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Alison Kenneway provided copies of the 2018 MST Analyses which provided detailed data for each test date. Ms. Smith discussed in detail the data with the Committee and the results of the testing noting they only conducted DNA testing on samples that had high bacteria counts. Ms. Smith cautioned this is the information we have currently but the main thing this information conveys is that more data needs to be compiled in order to determine what the norm for Goose Rocks Beach is. In addition to continue to participate in the Maine Healthy Beaches program, Ms. Smith added the town will continue with their survey of the septic systems and sewer lines and have added an overlay of that data to the GIS town maps. One thing Megan Simms discussed at the last meeting, Ms. Smith continued, is to add some education efforts next year.

Ms. Kenneway addressed the Committee to explain the water testing process and frequency as part of the Maine Healthy Beaches sampling program.

Mr. Mulvihill asked if the town has an obligation to inform the tourist public that 45-50% of the time the water is unsuitable for swimming. Ms. Smith explained that any time the town gets data suggesting there is an elevation in bacteria levels an advisory is released. Ms. Smith asked the Committee if they wished to have a role, going forward, in where/when the advisories are posted.

Mr. Steve Hannah of 7 Crescent Avenue, addressed the Committee to comment the frequency of tests that exceeded acceptable levels of bacteria in the center of the beach was only a couple of times in the summer as opposed to each of the river mouth areas where there were far more high bacteria readings. Mr. Hannah also explained that rainfall is only 1 of three factors they found important. The other two factors are ultra-low tides where you get the highest concentrations along with a big tidal swing where an astronomical high tide will end up scouring the marsh area. Mr. Hannah concluded by stating he is looking forward to having more data next year in order to perform further DNA analysis.

Mr. Sherman asked how much of this program is costing the town and if it is part of the Beach Advisory Committee's budgeting process. Ms. Smith explained that there is only one town budget so the Beach Advisory Committee's budget is the town budget. The cost to the town to participate in this program, Ms. Smith continued, depends on how much Maine Health Beaches is able to support the program. However, Ms. Smith added she has informed Ms. Simms the town will certainly supplement any support if there is tight funding at the state level.

Ms. Linda Hannah, also of 7 Crescent Avenue addressed the Committee to explain the testing performed this summer was done primarily by volunteers so the town has no expense in that part of the process. Ms. Kenneway added the program can always use more volunteers if anyone is interested; please contact the Kennebunkport Public Health Department.

8. Other new business

In response to a question raised about motorized vehicles on the beach at the last meeting, Mr. Driver stated there is a town ordinance that restricts motorized vehicles on the beach with the exception of emergency vehicles or other vehicles participating in town approved civic-minded activities such as a beach clean-up day.

9. Date for next meeting.

After a brief discussion the Committee members agreed to email their schedules to Mr. Driver to set a possible date in late March or early April, depending on the availability of the Village Fire Station meeting room.

10. Further Public Comments

There were no further comments or questions from the audience in attendance.

11. Adjourn