

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Village Fire Station
Monday July 8th, 2019
6:00 PM Meeting

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, July 8th, 2019. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver (Chair), Bob Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jim Mulvihill, Jennifer Wasserman

1. Call to Order

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order, confirmed a quorum and welcomed new member to the Committee, Jennifer Wasserman. Mr. Driver also congratulated Kate Bauer Burke and Joanne Gustin on their re-election to the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gustin made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8th, 2019 Beach Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public comments on matters not on the agenda

Mr. Driver opened the meeting for public comments.

Ms. Peggy Kirby of 5 Kings Lane addressed the Committee to express her gratitude and applaud the Committee's efforts to increase safety on Jeffry's /way.

Mr. Fred Stafford of 244 Kings Hwy addressed the Committee to ask what beach rights is The Tides entitled to, noting he witnessed last summer an employee of The Tides instructing a young mother and her 2 small children from approximately 3-40 feet in front of the beach club's chairs citing it was a private beach. Mr. Driver responded that The Tides' employee was incorrect that it is not a private beach area and as signatories of the Beach Use Agreement they have a claim to private use of 25 feet from the dunes. For clarification, Mr. Sherman noted signers of the Beach Use Agreement have preferential use not private use, so there is a difference.

Mr. Stafford also voiced a concern about The Tides grooming their area of the beach by pushing all of the debris and seaweed onto other beach owners' properties.

Mr. Paul Hogan commented from the audience that he has noticed The Tides set of chairs seem to be spreading to the east and into the Right of Way.

Mr. Mulvihill offered a suggestion to remind The Tides to be cognizant of the need to keep the Right of Way and not block it. Mr. Driver replied that suggestion will be conveyed to the owner and manager of The Tides. Mr. Stafford added it would be best if that pathway was kept clear so emergency personnel can access the beach unencumbered.

Mr. Tom Galligan of Hayward Ave asked the Committee for a brief review on the status of the lawsuit. Mr. Driver replied the case has been won in the trial court and it was argued the middle of April and is just awaiting a decision from the Supreme Judicial Court.

A member of the audience who resides on Wildwood commented she has noticed a lot of flip-flops being left on the handicapped ramp and was worried that could cause an accident for someone using the ramp. Ms. Gustin offered to post a reminder on Facebook to keep the handicapped access ramp clear.

Mr. Sherman asked to comment a few items not mentioned on the Agenda. Firstly Mr. Sherman thanked all those who helped with the beach clean-up. Secondly, Mr. Sherman asked people who walk their dogs on the beach to please be considerate and clean-up after their pets. Lastly, Mr. Sherman wanted to make anyone who is considering joining the Beach Advisory Committee to be aware the commitment is only for 5 meetings a year.

Mark Veillet addressed the Committee to commend them for their work on fixing the issues on Jeffry's Way.

There were no further comments from the audience in attendance.

6. Update on Water testing

On behalf of the Natural Resources Subcommittee, Mr. Paul Hogan gave a brief report that the water testing program was continuing and they are now trying to focus on the sources of the pollution into the rivers. Mr. Hogan noted the risk for high bacteria levels seems to be when there are very low levels of water in the outgoing tides of the rivers and after rain events.

7. Plover Report

Ms. Carol Sherman read the Plover Report into the record stating this has been a banner year for the plovers in the Maine with a record 87 adult pairs. As of today, Ms. Sherman reported that Goose Rocks Beach has 5 adult pairs, 6 chicks and 4 fledglings with one active nest, all of which are on the west end of the beach. Ms. Sherman also noted she has brochures available about the plovers if anyone was interested in learning about them.

A member of the audience asked what is the difference between a chick and a fledgling? Ms. Sherman responded a fledgling will be 25-28 days old and starting to fly. The birds are most vulnerable their first 15-18 days, Ms. Sherman added.

8. Update on Jeffrys Way

Due to the mention several times throughout the meeting regarding Jeffrey's Way, Mr. Driver gave a brief summary of the discussions in past meetings resulting in the Committee's recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to designate Jeffrey's Way as a residents only road. Mr. Driver encouraged all those concerned to attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting and make their concerns known to the Town's Selectmen.

As a resident of Jeffrey's Way, Ms. Wasserman clarified the Committee's suggestion to make the road open to residents only is only for vehicular traffic; pedestrians and bicycles are welcome as always.

A member of the audience asked if it were possible to change two parking spots on Kings Hwy east of the stop signs, as loading/unloading spots. Mr. Driver explained even if those two spaces were designated as such, people would still park there. In addition, by ordinance the number of parking spaces cannot be decreased or increased from the established 173 parking spaces, Mr. Driver added.

Ms. Carol Sherman asked if the kayak company was allowed to drop kayaks off at the west end of the beach. Mr. Driver replied he is allowed to deliver to residents yes. Mr. Sherman noted she has seen him at the west end of the beach twice this summer.

9. Other new Business

There was no other new business to discuss at this meeting.

9. Next meeting

Mr. Driver announced the next Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 14th, 2019. Mr. Hogan added there will be a presentation by Adam Baukus from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on sustainable seafood. There will also be a presentation from the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust on their Meadow Woods project.

Before adjourning, Mr Driver also mentioned there will be a presentation at one of their meetings from a representative of the University of New England to discuss what the university has to offer.

Mr. Driver introduced tonight's presentation by Committee member Jon Dykstra on the geologic history of the southern Maine beaches.

11. Further public comments

There were no further comments from the audience in attendance.

12. Adjourn