

**Town of Kennebunkport
Beach Advisory Committee
Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station
Wednesday, August 14th, 2019
6:30 PM Meeting**

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 14th, 2019. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver (Chair), Bob Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jim Mulvihill, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jen Wasserman, Sheila Matthews-Bull (Selectmen Representative)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the July 8, 2019 Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public comments on matters not on the agenda

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

Mr. Ray St. Laurent of 170 Kings Hwy asked the Committee what the procedure is to have speed bumps installed on Kings Hwy. Mr. Driver explained the lengthy process the Committee and the town went through to acquire the speed bumps on New Biddeford Road and asked what area of Kings Hwy Mr. Laurent was referring to. Mr. Laurent replied speed is difficult to control especially in area of the intersection of Norwood Avenue and Kings Hwy.

Mr. John Wostbrock of 218 Kings Hwy suggested a speed sign might be helpful in slowing down traffic, adding he would prefer that over speed bumps. Mr. Wostbrock also commented it would be nice to remind drivers it is the law to stop for people in the crosswalks. Mr. Sherman recommended the town paint a crosswalk in the road. Mr. St. Laurent responded to Mr. Sherman's suggestion that he is not a proponent of more signs but would like something done to mitigate the speed along Kings Hwy whether it is a speed sign or more police presence. A member in the audience offered his opinion that the speed bumps on New Biddeford Road are a travesty. Mr. John Morrissey of 28 New Biddeford Road commented he disagrees wholeheartedly on the speed bump issue and thinks they are fabulous. Mr. Driver commented that as far as he is aware the speed bumps are going to stay.

Mr. Paul Hogan asked the Committee if they could invite the Police Chief to attend a Beach Advisory Meeting in the spring to discuss dogs on the beach, particularly in the evening when folks who know the rules are still allowing their dogs off leash. Ms. Burke agreed with Mr. Hogan's suggestion as she also has witnessed a lot more breaching of the dog rules at the beach. Mr. Sherman agreed with Mr. Hogan's and Ms. Burke's observations, and again urged folks to be responsible dog owners and to please pick up after their dogs. Ms. Linda Hanna of Crescent Avenue observed whoever is responsible for filling the dog waste bags at the dispensers are doing a great job, adding there is no excuse not to pick up after your dog.

Ms. Barbara Barwise of Sea Lane commented she has observed dog owners to be respectful for the most part and noted there are two other problems occurring lately at the beach: 1) balloons on the beach, and 2) the digging of holes left without being filled in.

On the subject of respecting the beach, Mr. Driver stressed the importance of preserving the dune grass and it's vital role in keeping the beach intact and asked people to not drag or leave their kayaks in the grass. Mr. Bill Casey of 272 Mills Road asked if the town has given any consideration requiring people who leave their kayaks on the beach to get a sticker? Mr. Driver responded that the Committee has talked about having eh Community Safety Officers ticketing kayakers saying move it or there will be a fine. Ms. Burke added she has noticed a huge increase in the amount of stuff people bring to the beach such as huge floats and rafts. Mr. Wostbrock suggested asking the CSOs to hand out the beach flyers to help decrease the general lack of awareness of the rules. Ms. Gustin cautioned against passing out too many flyers at the beach as that's where they will stay and create more litter at the beach.

Mr. Sherman stated this is his last year serving on the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee and asked people to seriously consider attending, participating and possibly joining the Committee to continue the good work done for the beach and the town as a whole.

4. Plover report

Ms. Carol Sherman read her plover report into the record noting as of August 10th, Maine Goose Rocks beach had 6 pairs with 11 fledglings as compared to last year where we had 7 pairs with same number of fledglings.

5. Natural Resource Committee Report

Mr. Jon Dykstra gave a detailed presentation on the outcome of the Natural Resource Committee's meeting held on July 29th with Carol Sherman, Paul Hogan, and John Kraeuter, some of the items discussed were the following:

- 1) Water Quality – noting Goose Rocks Beach was cited as the dirtiest beach in Maine is unfair as the data was lumped in with other beaches who do not measure water quality differently than our testing methods.
- 2) Pollinator Pathways – setting up property pathways and connections to allow bees and other critters way to connect to open areas. Hope to have Mary Ellen LeMay give a presentation to the Committee at the Fall meeting.
- 3) Climate Change, Erosion, and Sea Level Rise – This is the biggest issue facing Goose Rocks Beach with the focus on storms increasing there is a critical need to enhance the dunes and protect the beach from erosion.
 - a. Short Term Idea #1 – using pallets of sandbags rather than placing rocks at the entry ways to help create a barrier to the storm surges.
 - b. Short Term Idea #2 – provide some education material on the importance of plants as a natural protection for the sea dunes.
 - c. Long Term Idea – remove the pathways through the dunes to create a wall to wall dune. Pedestrian access to the beach could be provided by a flyover walkway up and over with a ramp for handicapped access.

Mr. Driver thanked Mr. Dykstra for his report and suggested adding an article or two to the town's newsletter or annual report.

6. Water Testing at GRB

Mr. Charles Sullivan asked if the town has discovered where the pollution is coming from and if we are doing anything to monitor the properties on the rivers that may be causing the pollution. Mr. Driver responded the town has been involved with the Maine Healthy Beaches program since 2004 and have begun DNA testing on samples to determine the source of the pollution and the state and the town's Health Departments are monitoring the situation.

7. Other New Business

In relation to the kayak issue addressed previously, Mr. Driver announced there is an issue before the Zoning Board of Appeals presently for a permit for a home business occupation to deliver chairs and umbrellas to the beach. Mr. Driver suggested those interested in this issue to attend the ZBA meeting or the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

8. Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Driver announced the Committee with target a date in October for the next Beach Advisory Meeting.

9. Adjourn