

**Town of Kennebunkport**  
**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee**  
**32 North Street, Village Fire Station**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 6:30 PM**

A BAC meeting was held on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014.

*Members Present:* Robert Sherman – Chairman, Margaret Barry, Paul Hogan, Beth Ramsey, Richard Driver, Mike Weston  
*Others Present:* Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager

**Call to Order:** Mr. Sherman affirmed the Committee had a quorum in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Beth Ramsey requested that the committee consider approval of minutes of September 9th, 2014 meeting. Mr. Weston made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0 with Mr. Driver abstaining because he was not at that meeting.

The floor was opened for items and concerns not covered on the agenda. There were none.

**Updates from September 9 BAC Workshop:**

**Bicycle safety program:** Mr. Sherman reported that he talked with the Town Administrators and G.R.B.A. about implementing a bicycle safety program. Mr. Sherman made a motion affirming the Committee should pursue a bike safety program. Ms. Ramsey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Driver and Mr. Weston are on the safety and traffic sub-committee and will work on this assignment.

**Modify Handicapped parking space at Dyke road and Kings Highway:**

Mr. Hogan made a motion for the Committee to recommend the Town modify the above mentioned parking space to better accommodate a handicap van. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**Other updates:** BOS has approved the request for \$300 for a graphic designer to develop signage to be used to help protect dune grass. Town Manager Laurie Smith's preparation of a calendar-based set of Operating Procedures for Goose Rocks Beach will be in place for beach activity beginning summer of 2015. Ms. Smith reported she will send a preliminary draft calendar to the Committee by the end of the first quarter of 2015. Ms. Smith recommended that voting on motions is important to clarify what is being done and to provide direction.

Ms. Barry announced the next BAC e-newsletter is scheduled for the first week of November. Ms. Smith suggested adding a section to the newsletter listing any action items voted and approved from this meeting. The e-newsletter is sent to approximately 500 email addresses. Ms. Ramsey also reminded the audience to send any questions/comments to [grbadvisory@gmail.com](mailto:grbadvisory@gmail.com).

**New Business**

**Public vs. Private ROW:** Mr. Sherman provided a brief summary of the issue stating the private ROW at 151 Kings Hwy has several signs that give the appearance of a public ROW. It is often used by the general public. Mr. Hogan asked if the signs on that ROW are required. Ms. Smith responded that the signs are not publicly required. Mr. John Kraeuter addressed the Committee stating that he has requested the removal of the signs and trash cans from that ROW several times. Ms. Smith advised the Committee they could make a motion to not place public signs on a private ROW. Mr. Driver recommended that the BOS will need to research the situation and take into account who owns the ROW and the use by emergency vehicles. Mr. Hogan made a motion for the Town to remove the public signs on the private ROW located at 151 Kings Hwy. Ms. Barry seconded the motion. The Committee had a brief discussion and voted 5 to 1 in favor.

### **Identification of Public ROW from beach**

Mr. Sherman is seeking creative ways to demarcate the 9 public ROW from the beach. Visitors of the beach often will use private ROW when leaving the beach either because they cannot find the Public ROW or it is an easier path to their car or home. Ms. Barbara Barwise added that this issue is not germane to beachfront owners as the public will also trespass on inland private properties while entering/exiting the beach. Ms. Barry recommended that the Communications sub-committee should explore tasteful possibilities for signage.

### **Possible changes to Dog Ordinance**

Mr. Chris Farr of Guinea Road is in favor of amending the Dog Ordinance to allow dogs off-leash on the beach at specific times for specific seasons. Mr. Farr noted that he is aware of a dog that runs freely at the beach without an owner present. Mr. Bob Kember stated that prior to this summer the Ordinance was not enforced and everything went well at the beach. He would like dogs to be allowed off leash at the beach under voice control. Safety officers could test voice control of dogs that cause a problem.

Ms. Carol Morris of Goose Rocks Rd addressed the Committee suggesting the ban on dogs at the beach be restricted to the plover breeding areas. She would like to find a practical solution to the problem.

Ms. Janet Kohl of Goose Rocks Rd. is in support of allowing dogs off leash at the beach but cautioned incorporating a specific time on the ordinance due to the changes in daylight hours during the different seasons.

Ms. Jenny Wasserman of Jeffrey's Way is in support of a Dog Ordinance amendment that allows off leash in the morning. She commented that most people who walk their dogs on the beach have been respectful, responsible dog owners.

Robin Phillips supports an amendment and asked that the Audubon Society be more diligent and accurate where they fence off the plover areas. Ms Barwise expressed her unhappiness with some of the policies of the Audubon Society.

Louise Spang of Arundel Road and whose family is the Parsons family of Kennebunk spoke in favor of allowing dogs off leash on the beach. The Dog Advisory committee in Kennebunk encourages good behavior.

Mr. Doug McCrae addressed the Committee announcing his agreement of the suggestions made and stated it all comes down to enforcing courteous behavior and the judgment of people who are enforcing the rules.

Mr. Weston advised if the Committee recommended to the Board of Selectmen to change the Dog Ordinance, those changes, if approved by the Board of Selectmen, would still need to be approved by a majority at Town Meeting. Ms. Smith commented that the earliest a vote would take place is June 2015.

Mr. Sherman would like to affirm the following points: Agreement that there should be a citizens dog committee, have dog owners take responsibility for other dog owners, plover activity signs are effective, the BAC provides a voice for the homeowners who do not vote in Kennebunkport.

Mr. Sherman made a motion to form a Dog Ordinance sub-committee to possibly modify the existing Dog Ordinance. Mr. Driver amended the motion to add the Committee makes a report to the BAC at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Weston seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

### **Establish a Long Term Planning sub-Committee**

Mr. Sherman suggested the BAC create a long term planning sub-committee to address items such as disaster preparedness and the new housing slated in Arundel. Ms. Smith informed the Committee the Town has an emergency operations plan to handle a variety of emergencies. The Town staff is working on updating that plan now to address some of the unique circumstances at GRB.

Establish dates for next BAC meetings: Dec. 4, 2014 and March 24, 2015

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM