

**Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Kennebunkport Village Fire Station**  
**Monday, January 22, 2020**

A meeting of the Beach Advisory Committee was held on January 22, 2020 at the Village Firehouse. Members present were Richard Driver, Robert Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jon Dykstra, Joanne Gustin, Jim Mulvihill, Sheila Matthews-Bull.

Chairman Richard Driver called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Minutes On motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the meeting held on October 29, 2019 were approved unanimously.
2. Public Comments Mr. Driver opened the meeting to public comments for items not on the agenda. Ms. Linda Hanna of 7 Crescent Avenue addressed the Committee concerning parking on Kings Highway for persons involved in the beach profiling program. She reported that the parking at a private residence is no longer available to the beach profilers and requested that some mechanism, such as a sign in her vehicle window, be developed to permit her team to park on Kings Highway when doing beach profiling.

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

3. Fires on the beach. Mr. Driver reported on a meeting that he and Mr. Sherman had with the Town Manager and the Police Chief regarding the issue of beach campfires . Mr. Driver explained that, weather permitting, there are 10 possible permits for small campfires given per day; 5 are allocated to beach property owners and the other 5 are for the general public. If a beach fire has grown too large, the Police Chief has the authority to stop it. Mr. Driver encouraged anyone who has a complaint to please call the Police Department and they will send out an officer. Mr. Driver added that permission must be obtained from the beach front property owner to have a campfire in front of a house. The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has given general permission for people to have fires on KCT property.

Ms. Burke raised the issue of having too many fires in one particular area on the beach creating a cumulative effect of a bonfire. Ms. Matthews-Bull offered to ask the town to track where and how often there are fire permits issued.

Ms. Jean Ciaramentaro of 42 Wildwood Avenue stated that there are beach fires every night on which the weather permits during the summer months and there are designated spots where the fires can be. Ms. Ciaramentaro added she believed the concentration of beach fires pose a real health hazard to those living in the area and that the smoke still lingers long after the fires have been extinguished at 10:00p.m. Mr. Richard Roberge of 36 Wildwood Avenue commented that the Police Station when issuing a general public permit designates areas where such campfire can be held, which designation corresponds to the KCT properties.

Ms. Burke expressed concern about the concentration of the general public fire permits in one particular area and suggested consultation with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust regarding the open permission it has given for campfires on its beachfront property. Mr. Dykstra suggested perhaps having the Conservation Trust limit the number of fires allowed to one fire per each KCT lot which would both limit the numbers of fires and spread them out. He offered to talk to the Trust about this issue. An alternative Ms. Matthews-Bull suggested was putting a requirement on the fire permits issued that they must be 75 yards from any other fire.

4. GRB brochure – omissions in current version

Ms. Gustin volunteered to review the contents of the GRB brochure to see if any omissions needed to be corrected or if any updates were needed and, in general, to see if items could be streamlined.

5. Beach patrolling

Mr. Driver noted that it has been suggested that there is a need for increased beach patrolling during the summer. Various alternatives suggested included having an ATV or a mountain-style bicycle for use in patrolling or increasing the number of patrol officers. The ATV negatives commented upon were the need for increased training and the long-standing tradition of not having motorized vehicles (other than emergency vehicles) on the beach. A motion adopted at the October BAC meeting to recommend that the Town increase the number of patrol officers is part of the current budget process. The suggestion regarding use of appropriate bicycles will be presented to the Police Chief.

6. Discussion of Kayaks and overnight storage of beach equipment

Mr. Driver announced the subcommittee that was formed at the last meeting (Ms. Burke, Ms. Wasserman and Mr. Mulvihill) to conduct some research on this issue will defer its report to the next meeting. A brief discussion followed of the restriction in the Beach Use Agreement regarding kayak storage (no overnight storage without the permission of the beachfront owner) and the complications which may be presented by the outcome of the beach ownership litigation. With the beach lawsuit concluded, Mr. Mulvihill cautioned there are two kinds owners on the oceanfront and questioned whether that should be considered as the Committee proceeds. Ms. Matthews-Bull stated that the Town and its attorneys are discussing this issue. Ms. Burke asked that the Town and its attorneys keep the Committee members informed of their conclusion. Mr. Driver commented there has been a general increase in use of the beach along with more ingenuity of what people bring and leave on the beach. He acknowledged the recent actions by the Town of Wells regarding tents on its beaches.

7. Handicap parking spaces

Mr. Driver announced the Committee passed a motion at the last meeting and the Town is going to designate two additional parking spaces where the handicapped ramp is located.

8. Water quality testing

Mr. Driver stated at the time he and Mr. Sherman met with the Town Manager the results of the recent DNA testing was not yet available. The town is considering putting up signs in the areas closest to the rivers when there are high bacteria levels in the water. Mr. Steve Hannah of 7 Crescent Avenue commented that the town and the Committee needs to work together on the

wording, placement and number of signs. Ms. Matthews-Bull stated that there would be sufficient opportunity for the Committee to have input on any such signs.

9. Parking stickers - refunds

In response to questions raised at the last meeting, Mr. Driver explained parking stickers purchased from the town hall or the Police Department are eligible for a refund if you can not find a parking space the day of purchase. The Goose Rocks General Store purchases a supply of the parking stickers from the town in advance and then sells those stickers to visitors of the beach. Any parking stickers purchased from the General Store are not refundable.

10. Other new business

Mr. Sherman announced his term on the Committee is ending this year and encouraged other beachfront owners who would like to be on the Committee to volunteer. Mr. Driver added one qualification is that you have to be a beachfront signer of the Beach Use Agreement in order to run for election on the Beach Advisory Committee to fill Mr. Sherman's position.

11. Date for next meeting

Mr. Driver will circulate via email to the Committee members what dates are available for the next meeting in the first 2 weeks of March, 2020.

12. Further Public Comments

Ms. Gianna DiCostanzo of Kings Hwy asked if the beach clean-up schedule could be discussed at the March meeting. Mr. Driver replied it was suggested to hold 2 beach clean-up days in the Spring.

14. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.