

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Kennebunkport Village Fire Station
Tuesday, October 27th, 2015
6:00 PM Meeting Minutes

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 27th, 2015. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Paul Hogan – Chairman, Margaret Barry, Richard Driver, Paul Hogan, Katie Nixon(via video), Robert Sherman, Michael Weston

Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager

1. Call to Order

2. Approve minutes of August 12th, 2015 meeting

Mr. Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Weston seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comments for items not on Agenda

Mr. Hogan asked the audience in attendance if they would like discuss any topics not listed on tonight's agenda, and invited the at-home viewing audience to communicate on line via grbadvisory@gmail.com.

Mr. Dave Melley of Sunset Lane addressed the Committee suggesting a small piece of reflective tape be placed on the bike racks at the east end of the beach to alert pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Ms. Barry suggested adding the Beach Profiling program to tonight's Agenda. Ms. Smith informed the Committee they just received a letter from the Beach Profiling program today with a link to view the report from their website. The Committee members had a brief discussion of the program and agreed to ask the state to possibly send a guest speaker to a future GRBAC meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Communications

Ms. Barry reported the Subcommittee's major upcoming project is to consolidate the multiple signs at the beach access points, which will include the new dog ordinance revisions if approved by the voters. The new sign will be approximately 3 feet by 4 feet with a larger text font, Ms. Barry added. Mr. Hogan added that the plan is to eliminate several of the town's signs but they would have to maintain all State and Federal signs.

Ms. Barry added the Subcommittee would have a draft of the sign available for the committee to review by the January meeting.

Mr. Sherman asked where the signs would be placed. Mr. Hogan replied there are 9 public Rights of Way so there will be one sign made for each entry. In response to a question from Ms. Smith asking if there would be different signs on Dyke Road and New Biddeford Road, Mr. Hogan responded that the 3 ft. by 4 ft. signs are pedestrian signs to be placed parallel to the pathways and the road signs would, logically be larger print and designed to be read by motorists.

Mr. Driver suggested the signs to be placed at the west end of the beach be altered to contain information about the protected species areas. Ms. Barry responded the subcommittee has discussed it and will be mindful of both of those areas and the changes in the dog ordinance.

Ms. Barry also reported the brochures will be revised to include all of the ordinance changes and will meet with local realtors in the spring to determine the most efficient means of disseminating the brochures. Ms. Barry also mentioned a possibility of composing a magnet for rental agents to be placed in their seasonal rental properties. A draft of the brochure/magnet will also be available by January, Ms. Barry noted.

Another item of note, Ms. Barry continued, is the listing of duties and responsibilities of the three GRBAC positions in the next e-newsletter to be filled in the spring election. There are 2 beachfront positions and one backlot position available.

Ms. Smith added the town will send out two mailings on the vote: 1st will be a notice of the vacancies and instructions on how to submit an application; the 2nd will be the actual ballot.

Lastly, Ms. Barry reported the GRBAC Facebook page is up and running. The page is called “Friends of Goose Rocks Beach” and will be updated throughout the winter months.

Natural Resources

Ms. Barry distributed copies of the minutes from the latest Natural Resources Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Barry reported the subcommittee’s latest efforts started on October 9th removing the dense thatch of bittersweet near Proctor Avenue and replaced it with beach rose, bayberry and sea grass. The cost of this work came to \$10,000, which was split equally between the GRBAC fund and the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, Ms. Barry added. Ms. Barry also mentioned the Subcommittee was considering expanding their efforts to assist any beachfront owners in eliminating invasive species on their properties as well.

Referring to the Subcommittee’s minutes, Mr. Driver asked if there was any discussion about having a public restroom at the east end of the beach. Mr. Hogan responded the subcommittee is still working on a solution and is hopeful to report back in January with a proposal.

Safety/traffic – bike/walking path for New Biddeford Road??

As a result of concerns raised at the summer meetings, Mr. Driver stated there has been some discussion of repaving New Biddeford Road to include a bicycle/walking path up to Winter Harbor Road. Mr. Hogan added there is some money in the budget leftover from previous bridge work that may be used towards this.

Ms. Smith asked Mr. Mike Claus, Kennebunkport Highway Superintendent to share his cost estimates of such a project.

Mr. Claus began by stating typically there would be a curbed sidewalk; however it is generally accepted in town to have a paved shoulder that is shared between walkers, bikers, and cars. The subcommittee members, Ms. Smith and Mr. Claus had a brief discussion on the specifics of the bike/pedestrian path and the costs associated with the construction. Some of the details discussed were:

- Work would start in early April and conclude in May
- Distance to be paved is 3,900 feet of road from Kings Hwy to Winter Harbor Road
- \$45,000 will cover only 3,000 ft. of roadway without a curb
- There is a circular traffic pattern from Dyke Road to Kings Hwy to New Biddeford Road to Winter Harbor Road.

The Committee continued their discussion concerning speeding on New Biddeford Road, the possibility of installing a seasonal speed bump and obtaining public input on installing a walkway/bike path.

Ms. Elaine Murphy of 6 Bel Aire Ave. expressed her support for the proposed bike path and asked how wide the path was on Dyke Road. Mr. Claus responded the path along Dyke Road varies in spots from 5 to 6 feet.

Ms. Elinor Melley of Sunset Lane suggested painting caution indicators and the speed limits on New Biddeford Road.

Ms. Barry made a motion the Committee recommend the \$45,000 remaining in the budget be used to install a 6 ft. walkway along New Biddeford Road from King’s Hwy, without a curb. Mr. Driver seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Sherman commented that a message was sent to the Committee asking the Highway Dept. to clear away some of the over growth around the stop sign at Kings Hwy and New Biddeford Road. Ms. Smith indicated she will pass that information onto the Highway Dept.

5. Town Manager’s Report

Referring to a report submitted to the Committee members, Ms. Smith reported the following items:

- Total amount spent to date is \$20,839.98 with the majority of that money spent for payroll for beach and patrol officers
- The number of permit stickers sold this year is less than in 2014 but the revenue received was greater in 2015 due to a fee increase
- New data tracking this season shows that more than 50% of permit stickers are sold at businesses other than at the Goose Rocks Beach Store
- There were 658 parking violations issued

Ms. Smith added that from a police standpoint there have been less negative interactions than in recent years past.

Ms. Smith also commented that from looking at the data of citizen initiated calls to the Police Department, there are very few calls for unnecessary reasons.

Ms. Barbara Barwise addressed the Committee and suggested either the Town or Committee investigate the hours when most of the parking violations occurred that it may coincide with the Tides Inn Happy Hour.

6. Leave No Trace Presentation

Mr. Hogan announced the Committee will reschedule this discussion for their next meeting due to the late hour. Mr. Hogan ran through a short list of items to be discussed possibly at the next meeting. Those items were:

1. Moped parking at the beach
2. Bike helmets
3. Bike rack locations
4. Consideration of fire pit regulation at the beach
5. Emergency preparedness at the beach
6. Amendment of no smoking policy at the beach to include vapor cigarettes as well
7. Possible prohibition of personal drones at the beach

Mr. Driver asked Ms. Smith to speak with Town Counsel about the possibility of using money in the Beach Fund to cover the remaining costs of installing a bike path/walkway along New Biddeford Road.

7. Reflections from the Summer of 15

This Agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

8. Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to tentatively schedule the next GRBAC meetings for January 26th, 2016 and March 22nd, 2016 and potentially have meetings on April 26th, 2016 and May 24th, 2016.

Ms. Nixon suggested if anyone has any handouts or reports to be discussed at any future meetings, that information is also submitted electronically prior to the meeting so those not in attendance will be able download the information.

9. Adjourn