

**Town of Kennebunkport
Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
32 North Street, Village Fire Station
January 15, 2013 @ 6:00 P.M.**

A Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, January 15th, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. in the North Street Fire Station.

Members Present: Robert Sherman(Chairman), Paul Hogan, Elizabeth Ramsey, Richard Driver, Michael Weston. Margaret Barry and Katherine Nixon were in attendance via phone

Others Present: Mr. Larry Mead, Town Manager, Police Chief Craig Sanford, Wayne Fessenden

Items:

1. Call to Order

Mr. Sherman brought the meeting to order and introduced the Committee members and guests.

2. Consider approval of minutes of December 17, 2012 meeting

Mr. Weston made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2012 meeting. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Mead provided instructions where to find the Committee's approved minutes on the Town's website.

3. Old Business

a. Opening comments: Chair Bob Sherman

b. Selection of Vice-Chair and Secretary

Mr. Driver and Mr. Hogan were nominated for the Vice-Chairman position. The Committee members voted. Mr. Mead tallied the votes. Mr. Driver was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Ms. Ramsey and Ms. Nixon were nominated for the position of Secretary. The Committee members voted. Mr. Mead tallied the votes. Ms. Ramsey was elected Secretary.

c. Check in on board member email addresses

There were no issues with email accounts.

d. Report: Technical Communication Sub-committee (Katie, Meg, & Paul)

Ms. Nixon explained in detail the communication plan is designed to be transparent, open, and inclusive and to encourage two-way communication. Some items mentioned were:

- Create a Goose Rocks Beach website to include regular updates, and to provide an avenue for suggestions and responses from the Committee. The website would also include contact information.
- To conduct Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meetings at the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station or the Goose Rocks Beach Community House during the summer months to increase public attendance.
- Propose a general Gmail account where residents could send comments/questions to be addressed during Committee meetings.

Mr. Sherman stated the management of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Gmail account would be the responsibility of the Secretary.

After some discussion the Committee agreed on the following:

1. Hold a minimum of one Committee meeting at either Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station or the Community House during the summer months.
2. Provide the last short segment of each future meeting for the Secretary to compile any inquiries from the public via the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Gmail account to be addressed by the Committee.

Ms. Barry stated the website should have a substantial amount uploaded by the March meeting. Mr. Sherman reminded the Committee there is a June 1st deadline to finalize the content of the website along with any changes in signage at the beach.

Mr. Wayne Fessenden addressed the Committee and provided copies of a brochure used by realtors for rental properties on the beach. Mr. Fessenden suggested utilizing the three realtors in town would be a rapid way to spread the word about any changes in beach use.

e. Report: Signage Sub-committee

Mr. Hogan provided each Committee member with a draft of the signage issues. Mr. Hogan stated the sub-committee reviewed the various town ordinances and regulations to prioritize what needs to be posted on signs at the beach. Mr. Hogan added the sub-committee would like have a supply of brochures attached to the signposts for the public to take home. The Committee members discussed at length the proposed content, tone and appearance of the signs. The Kennebunkport Conservation Trust provided the name of a professional to aid the sub-committee in composing the language. Mr. Sherman encouraged the Committee members and public at large to provide feedback to Mr. Hogan in a timely manner. Mr. Hogan added there is a consideration to provide all brochures in French to accommodate those non-English speaking tourists.

f. Update on history of Town revenues and expenses related to GRB

Mr. Mead explained the largest expense traditionally is police expenses, which will increase this year by adding extra patrols in the area starting June 15th. This date is earlier than in previous years.

Re: 239 & 241 Kings Hwy

Mr. Mead explained the Board of Selectmen decided to table a decision on this item and asked if the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee wants to revisit this issue to potentially change its recommendation. Mr. Mead added one of the members who originally voted in the affirmative needs to make a motion to reconsider this item. It would require at least 5 votes in favor of the motion for the Committee to revisit the issue.

Mr. Sherman proposed the Committee re-examine this request. Mr. Weston seconded the motion. The committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion.

4. New Business

a. Police Dept. role in management and enforcement: Chief Craig Sanford

1. Previous staffing levels and costs

2. Proposed staffing levels and costs

3. Potential issues and concerns

Chief Sanford addressed the Committee stating with the exception of parking complaints at the beach, he does not see any major issues. Chief Sanford said he will be meeting with the town attorney to discern how to handle the new changes from an enforcement view and believes education of the public will be a transitional process.

Mr. Weston asked if there will be an increase in Police staff or costs. Chief Sanford replied there will be an additional 1 ½ patrols at the beach at all times during the hours between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., 7 days/week. That added patrol will begin 2 ½ weeks earlier than usual, the Chief added.

Mr. Sherman asked what the staffing has been historically. Chief Sanford responded that last year there was a reserve officer on bike patrol, a community safety officer, and someone on the beach patrolling for dog violations between 8-10a.m. Chief Sanford added that does not include the usual patrols by himself and the Assistant Chief. The Committee members discussed the new parking regulation at the beach. Mr. Sherman asked Chief Sanford if it would be beneficial to establish a liaison to his department to facilitate communication between the Police Department and this Committee.

Mr. Fessenden provided a summary of what the Beach Safety Committee had been working on in the past. Mr. Fessenden agreed to forward all of the Safety Committee's recommendations to the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee. Mr. Mead added the primary focus of this ad-hoc committee was parking safety.

Mr. Sherman asked if anyone had an interest in serving as the Police Department liaison. Mr. Driver and Mr. Sherman volunteered to work as liaisons with Chief Sanford and his staff.

b. Ordinance issues

1. Existing ordinances that affect beach (dogs, horses, other)

2. Applicability of ordinance to entirety of beach

3. Issues not addressed by ordinance; i.e., jet skis, boat speeds

Mr. Sherman referred the Committee to a memo drafted by Mr. Mead regarding ordinance enforcement along the beach. Mr. Driver raised the issue of seeking ways to better include back-lot owners who are not signers of the Beach Use Agreement in the deliberations regarding beach management by providing them the opportunity to vote for members of the Beach Advisory Committee as well as serve on the BAC. After extensive discussion, Mr. Driver made a motion to have back-lot owners who are signatories to the Beach Use Agreement vote on including all back lot owners in voting for BAC members, as well as being allowed to serve on the BAC. Mr. Weston seconded the motion. The Committee had 5 votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Hogan voted

against the motion. Ms. Barry abstained from voting. The motion passed. Along with the ballot, a cover letter will be mailed explaining the reason for the vote.

The Committee discussed conducting a cross-check of the Beach Use Agreement with the town ordinances to discover any gaps. Mr. Driver raised the issue of watercraft storage on the beach. Another issue raised was hosting weddings or large parties on the beach. Mr. Hogan suggested a sub-committee evaluate those two issues (boat storage and large gatherings) to provide the Committee and ultimately the Board of Selectmen with recommendations on how to change the Ordinance if necessary. Mr. Weston and Mr. Driver volunteered to assist on the sub-committee.

c. BAC's role or responsibility for issues with public safety implications

Due to the late hour, Mr. Sherman stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

d. BAC's role in facilitating more voter participation in electing BAC members

Due to the late hour, Mr. Sherman stated this item would be continued to the next meeting.

5. Potential agenda items for next meetings

Mr. Sherman noted the Audubon Society and the Maine Fisheries would like to talk with the Committee about the plovers at the beach.

6. Set dates for February and March meetings

The Committee tentatively scheduled the next meetings for February 13th and March 19th, 2013.

7. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn, it was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Submitted by: Patricia Saunders, Recording Secretary