

**Town of Kennebunkport
Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
32 North Street, Village Fire Station
October 22, 2013 @ 6:30 P.M.**

A Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Village Fire Station.

Members Present: Chair Robert Sherman, Margaret Barry, Richard Driver, Paul Hogan, Beth Ramsey, Mike Weston.

Stuart Barwise and Katie Nixon were absent

Others Present: John Fraser, Interim Town Manager, Stuart Flavin

Items:

6:30 Call to Order: Bob Sherman, Chairman affirms quorum

6:35 Secretary's Report: Beth Ramsey –

Mr. Weston made a motion to approve the August 27, 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Weston made a motion to approve the September 24, 2013 minutes. Ms. Ramsey seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Driver abstained from voting.

Ms. Ramsey reminded the audience they can send any questions or comments to the Committee at grbadvisory@gmail.com.

6:40 Open floor to questions and comments from guests attending meeting

There were no comments or questions from the audience at this time.

6:45:

Updates regarding each of the top five focus issues by Lead Persons (to include presentation by Stu Flavin on dog management at Kennebunk Beach)

Item #1 Dogs

Mr. Stuart Flavin addressed the Committee and described the dog advisory committee established in Kennebunk. Mr. Flavin explained the monitoring is very informal with the goal of teaching people the rules of the beach which are: have a leash available; dogs need to be under voice control; clean up after your dog; don't throw trash on the beach; and to be courteous of others. Mr. Flavin also stated the monitoring only occurs on Mother's Beach and Gooches Beach. Parson's Beach is monitored by the Town of Kennebunk. Mr. Flavin also explained that the members of the Dog Advisory Committee (DAC) are sworn in by the Town Clerk and are screened by the Board of Selectmen. The DAC has a small budget of approximately \$200 which is predominately spent on correspondence with the town's dog owners and publication of a seasonal poll conducted by the beach monitors which is presented to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Flavin noted that the DAC also maintains the doggie bag boxes at each of the beaches. Ms. Barry asked how the schedule of volunteers for the morning and evening times works. Mr. Flavin responded there are no assigned people for assigned times or beaches; it is just open. Mr. Flavin added it is very rare there isn't someone monitoring the beach at either of those times.

Mr. Sherman asked Mr. Flavin how they conduct the end of the season poll. Mr. Flavin replied they approach people as they are walking on the beach. Mr. Flavin responded the majority of the people polled are from out of town vacationing in the area or are Kennebunk residents who are at the beach on a regular basis. Mr. Driver asked the length of the beach they patrol. Are dogs excluded from any part of the beach? Mr. Flavin replied he would guess the combined distance of Mother's and Gooches beaches are approximately one mile. The dogs are allowed the entire length of the beach. Mr. Driver then asked if there are any nesting plovers at any of their beaches. Mr. Flavin responded as far as he knew there were only nesting plovers at Parsons Beach. Mr. Flavin does not walk his dog on the beach at Goose Rocks because of the proximity of houses to the beach and the potential of dogs wandering onto the upland properties.

Status reports from actions established at September meeting:

Mr. Weston provided a summary of dog regulations of nearby towns. Mr. Weston noted that along with Ogunquit, Kennebunkport has the most restrictive regulation requiring dogs to be on leashes at all times on public property. In response to the plover issue, Mr. Weston also noted that the Town of Scarborough recently passed a leash law which may be overturned in the near future with a town vote. As a final note, Mr. Weston stated each of the towns had similar hours when dogs were allowed on the beaches.

Mr. Sherman has been in contact with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Audubon Society. He asked for their participation and suggestions on best practices regarding the plovers. Mr. Sherman added it has been suggested to block off the plovers' nesting area and make it known to the public, especially dog owners, the fine associated with disturbing or harming the protected plovers. Mr. Weston thinks the best option is to have a restricted area to protect the plovers. Mr. Hogan expressed the need to educate the public of their personal liability with regards to dogs and disturbing the plovers. At this point, the BAC will concentrate on restricting dogs where the plovers are nesting. A discussion about fines needs to be continued at a latter date.

Item #2 Parking

Mr. Hogan provided a brief summary of his meeting with Mr. Weston and the Assistant Chief of Police Kurt Moses which contained the following:

1. The four main issues raised were the crowdedness of Kings Hwy, parking along New Biddeford Road, speeding along Wildwood Road and the two intersections of Community House Road and Wildwood Road and Bellewood Ave. and Kings Hwy
2. The Chief expressed his support of a stop sign at Community House Road and Wildwood. He also supports the relocation of a parking space on Kings Hwy and Bellewood to #251 Kings Hwy.
3. It is possible that The Board of Selectmen would commission a traffic study for Kings Hwy and the Goose Rocks Beach area if the BAC recommends major changes.

Mr. Weston suggested trimming the trees and bushes on the corner of Community House Road to obtain better visibility. There was also some discussion among the Committee members on the exact location of the stop sign to be placed on Community House Road. Mr. Hogan offered to

Speak with the residents of that area to clear up any ambiguity before making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Item #3 Trash

Ms. Ramsey reported she spoke with the person who raised the issue of trash at the beach and suggested organizing a community walk of the beach a couple times per summer. Ms. Ramsey clarified the issue wasn't necessarily garbage being left on the beach but rather kids toys, chairs, large holes and various sand and debris structures built from the previous day. Ms. Ramsey also reported that Oceanside Waste Management collects the garbage at Goose Rocks Beach Public Ways every morning in the summer months, 7 days a week. Mr. Fraser suggested the excess garbage at the receptacles was being left mostly by renters who missed the scheduled pickup on Saturday mornings.

Item #4 Communication

Ms. Barry provided each committee member with a flexible plan for the Committee's communication efforts which consist of 3 major components:

1. The town webpage which contains minutes, agendas, maps, etc.
2. Devise a web presence such as Facebook to bring in the fun side of Goose Rocks Beach by reporting current happenings.
3. Send two emails a year (one in the Fall and one in the Spring) utilizing the Constant Contact program as a vehicle to upload all of the web addresses obtained so far and provide templates with which to add content. Ms. Barry explained the cost of using Constant Contact is \$15/month. Ms. Barry added the Communication Sub-Committee remains committed to obtaining all of the beach owners email addresses, especially those who have not signed the Beach Use Agreement. Mr. Hogan stated the property owners who do not receive mail in the town are those most sought after. Ms. Barry added that whatever information was sent via email would also be contained on the GRB website. Mr. Sherman suggested opening up email sign-up to renters so that they can be included on the list.

Mr. Sherman made a motion to make funds available to use Constant Contact at a cost of \$180/year. Mr. Weston seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

7:45 Acting Town Manager Update – John Fraser

- Status of Melissa Rizeri participation in BUA

Mr. Fraser stated Ms. Rizeri's signed agreement has been recorded with the York County Registrar.

The hearing on the GRB litigation is scheduled for November 19th, 2013.

7:55 Confirm next meeting date of November 6

The Committee agreed to forego holding a meeting in November and scheduled the next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting for Thursday, December 5th, 2013 at the Village Fire Station.

8:00 Adjourn

Submitted by:

Patricia Saunders, Recording Secretary