

**Town of Kennebunkport
Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
32 North Street, Village Fire Station
August 21, 2014
6:10pm Social Opportunity with Board Members
6:30pm Meeting Agenda**

A Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Thursday, August 21st, 2014. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Goose Rocks Fire Station.

Members Present: Robert Sherman – Chairman, Margaret Barry, Paul Hogan, Katie Nixon, Beth Ramsey, Richard Driver
Sheila Matthews-Bull

Others Present: Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager, Werner Gilliam, Town Planner

Items:

6:10 Social Time – light refreshments provided

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

6:35 Secretary's Report: Beth Ramsey –

Consider approval of minutes of July 22, 2014 meeting

Mr. Driver made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2014 meeting. Ms. Nixon seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Sherman thanked all those in attendance and asked if there were any items they wished to bring forth to the Committee's attention.

A member of the audience stated they would like to see a change in the town's policy to allow dogs off leash on the beach before 7:30 a.m. Other audience members concurred with that suggestion and asked if that was a possibility. Mr. Sherman asked if they were referring to having the dogs off leash year round or in the summer months and stated that topic is on the Committee's agenda to continue further discussions.

Mr. Sherman explained the presence of the plovers (a federally listed endangered species) confounds the issue of dogs on the beach as there are serious fines for disturbing an endangered species in their habitat. Mr. Alex Lacchiato suggested there may be a citizen initiative to adopt a policy similar to Scarborough that allows dogs to run off leash on the beach from mid-October to May.

Mr. Sherman added if there were to be changes to the dog ordinance it would not be put on a ballot until June of next year and if passed would not go into effect until after the summer of 2015. Mr. Sherman further explained there have been no changes to any of the town's ordinances; it is only enforcing the existing ordinance.

Ms. Ramsey reminded those in attendance and the viewing audience to send any questions or comments to grbadvisory@gmail.com or you can leave your name and phone number and she would contact them after the meeting.

6:45 Abbreviated Status reports regarding top focus issues:

a. Dogs / protected species birds – Sherman, Smith

Mrs. Sherman gave a brief report on the plovers at the beach this season stating there were fewer plovers than past years but had 9 chicks and all 9 fledged.

An audience member asked what happened to the nest at the other end of the beach. Mrs. Sherman replied it was most likely abandoned as it wasn't the ideal place for the plovers to nest.

b. Parking, Traffic and Safety– Driver, Weston

Mr. Driver stated there was nothing new to report.

c. Trash – Driver, Ramsey

Ms. Ramsey stated there was nothing new to report on this topic. Ms. Ramsey added the Committee was trying to encourage people to adopt a carry in/carry out culture for the beach. Mr. Driver reminded property owners to not use the barrels for household trash and asked those that rent their houses to remind tenants to use the Saturday curb-side pick-up.

d. Communication – Hogan, Nixon, Barry

Ms. Barry asked the audience for a show of hands if they knew about this meeting because of the signs posted or of an email notification. Ms. Barry stated this was the first time the Committee has done an email notification and will continue to do so for every meeting. Ms. Barry also reported the Committee has 540 contacts in their database and passed around a sign-up sheet for any audience members to be added to their email list.

e. Natural Resources Committee - Hogan, Nixon

Mr. Hogan reported this Committee had their first meeting 10 days ago. In meeting with Tom Bradbury of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, the Committee decided to first establish a natural resources inventory to better address the problem of invasive species along the beach and the proper removal of such. Mr. Hogan added Mr. Bradbury would contact the University of New England to ask for their assistance in this project. The Natural Resources Committee would meet again in October, Mr. Hogan concluded.

7:10 Town Manger Report – Laurie Smith

Ms. Smith reported the Healthy Maine Beaches conducts weekly tests of the water and has had difficulty the past few weeks getting volunteers. Ms. Smith asked any people interested in volunteering to please contact the Town Nurse, Judy Barrett. Ms. Smith said there were a few warnings issued this summer of high bacteria levels in the water due to heavy rains. Ms. Barry asked for a show of hands of those present who would like to receive an email when there is a health warning issued. Mr. Hogan added that warnings are posted at the Community Center when issued. One audience member suggested putting a flag up at the beach indicating there is a health warning that day similar to what Kennebunk does. Ms. Smith responded that would be something to address with Ms. Barrett.

Ms. Smith also reported the paving of Dyke Road was completed and the line painting would be finished by next week.

Ms. Smith provided the following statistics from the Police Department:

From June 1st to present:

- 436 parking tickets have been issued
- 17 warnings of dog leash violations
- 9 warning for liquor violations
- Several beach chairs have been collected by the trash cans
- Several seals have been found dead on the beach

A member of the audience asked if all of the parking tickets issued were paid. Ms. Smith responded she did not have the exact dollar amount of what was collected but knew that the town's collection rate was good this year. Mr. Hogan asked if Ms. Smith could report the exact amount at the September meeting along with the income from the sale of parking decals.

7:45 Establish September BAC meeting date - (week of Sept 8 or Sept 21)

Mr. Sherman stated once the meeting date was set with all members of the Committee and town officials it would be posted on the town website.

7:50 Adjourn official meeting, Guest speakers available for additional discussion and further Q & A.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

7:00. Special Guests:

Bob Foley, Cole Harrison Insurance – Flood Insurance Related Issues

Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning & Development - update on proposed Flood Plain Map Revisions potentially affecting Goose Rocks Beach