

**Town of Kennebunkport  
Beach Advisory Committee Meeting  
32 North Street, Village Fire Station  
September 24, 2013 @ 6:30 P.M.**

A Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 24th, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:35 p.m. in the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust Headquarters at Emmons Preserve.

Members Present: Robert Sherman – Chairman, Paul Hogan, Katherine Nixon, Margaret Barry, Beth Ramsey, Mike Weston  
Others Present: Mr. John Fraser, Interim Town Manager

**Items:**

**6:30    *Call meeting to Order: Bob Sherman affirms quorum***

**6:35    *Secretary's Report – consider approval of minutes of Aug 27 meeting - Beth Ramsey***

The minutes from the August 20th, 2013 meeting were approved. The minutes from the Workshop held on August 27th will be formalized and approved at the next meeting.

**6:40    *Open floor to questions and comments from any guests. Special welcome to John Fraser***

Mr. Sherman thanked the audience members for their attendance and introduced Mr. John Fraser, Interim Town Manager.

Mr. Peter MacDonald addressed the Committee and thanked for their efforts. Mr. MacDonald expressed his concern about visitors parking wherever they wanted at the beach. Mr. MacDonald relayed one conversation he had with a tourist who told him “as long as there isn’t a No Parking sign, I can park there.” Mr. MacDonald suggested the Committee coordinate their efforts with the Goose Rocks Beach Community House and the Police Department to improve awareness of bike safety and pedestrian traffic. Mr. Hogan stated the Committee realized this was an issue and worked to improve signage and think this winter some adjustments should be made especially for the back streets. Mr. Weston stated it makes sense to control parking but cautioned about adding more signs to an area already saturated with signs. Mr. Weston suggested having a standard parking sign that says “NO parking outside of lined spaces” or “Parking permitted ONLY in lined spaces”.

Mr. Jim Mulvihill asked the Committee to communicate with the Police Department to patrol the beach before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. to see how many dog owners are not keeping their dogs on a leash. Mr. Fraser suggested the Committee work with the Police Department on this issue as there may be constraints they are not aware of.

Mr. Sherman applauded the “tee shirt” police for a fantastic job patrolling this summer and will draft a letter on behalf of the Committee applauding their efforts.

**6:45    *Brief discussion regarding possible tracking format for numerous issues to be discussed over the upcoming months***

Mr. Sherman prepared a tracking sheet to keep on top of issues the Committee has prioritized and agreed to focus on for the coming year. Mr. Hogan agreed it was important to track every

issue raised and suggested even those issues the Committee has elected not to address, receive some response or explanation stating why. Ms. Nixon suggested the Communication Sub-Committee be responsible for the tracking sheet of issues.

Mr. Hogan suggested that the committee consider email correspondence with the signers of the BUA to better communicate with them and ask for feedback. Ms. Barry suggested adding the Questionnaire onto the website and possibly sending it in an email to those who have signed up for electronic messaging.

Mr. Sherman confirmed the next GRBAC meeting would be held on October 22, 2013 at the Village Fire Station

***6:50 Continue dialogue initiated in Aug 27 meeting regarding beach issues including dogs, beach use, new feedback and safety.***

### ***DOGS***

Mr. Weston reported he had a lengthy discussion with Larry Mead before his departure about dogs on the beach. Mr. Mead cautioned restricting dogs to be on leash from the 6-8 AM and after 6 PM as it would require a significant amount of policing and would prove difficult to enforce a leash law during those hours. During plover season, Mr. Mead suggested banning all dogs off leashes from Dyke Road to the west towards the Batson River. Mr. Weston concluded that it was Mr. Mead's opinion that dogs should be able to run on the beach from 6-8 AM and that during plover season they should be on a leash. Mr. Sherman and Mr. Weston will continue to gather information on this issue.

Mrs. Sherman made a suggestion to create a volunteer program modeled after Kennebunk beach's program that oversees responsible dog/owner behavior at the Kennebunk beaches. Stu Flavin will be invited to speak with the BAC about the program at Kennebunk Beach.

### ***SAFETY***

Mr. Sherman circulated a sample sign noting the congested traffic area similar to those used in Biddeford Pool. Mr. Sherman noted the area where there are a larger number of children congregating is around the Community Center and suggested having no parking along those streets.

Mr. Peter MacDonald agreed the greatest congregation is on Community House Road but cautioned that signs will do no good if it is not enforced.

Mr. Hogan suggested possibly making Kings Highway a one way street. Mr. Weston stated the idea was discussed a few months ago and it may not be possible due to state regulations.

### ***TRASH***

Ms. Ramsey suggested adding more barrels; schedule more frequent trash pick-up by the town; or consider carry in/carry out. The Committee discussed reports of the beach being littered during the summer months. After some discussion the Committee concluded the majority of litter found on the beach was burnt wood from beach fires and debris dredged up after a storm. Ms. Ramsey and Mr. Driver will be responsible for looking into the issue.

### ***CLOSING***

Ms. Ramsey was assigned the task of updating the tracking sheet and will circulate topics and responsibilities to each of the Committee members. Any and all emails received from the GRB Gmail account will be circulated to entire Committee as well.

Mr. Sherman noted the next Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Village Fire Station.

8:00 Meeting adjourned