

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee
Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station
Monday, November 19, 2018
6:30 PM Meeting

A Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday November 19th, 2018. The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Goose Rocks Beach Fire Station.

Members Present: Richard Driver, Bob Sherman, Kate Bauer Burke, Jim Mulvihill, Jon Dykstra
Not present: Joanne Gustin, Bill Nixon. Also present Laurie Smith, Town Manager.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Driver called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum

2. Approval of Minutes of August 13th, 2018

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Minutes of the August 13, 2018 Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Public comments on matter not on the Agenda

Mr. Bill Leffler of Proctor Street informed the Committee that the Southern Maine Agency on Aging had held an excellent meeting on emergency preparations and suggested that perhaps the Committee might consider holding a similar meeting in the future to discuss emergency preparedness at Goose Rocks Beach. Mr. Driver thanked Mr. Leffler for the suggestion but noted that the Committee had held a similar presentation at a summer meeting a few years ago.

Ms. Carol Sherman of 109 Kings Hwy informed the Committee that the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust has purchased 48 acres of land off of Route 9, the former Bryant property, with the intent to build a park to connect by trails to the Trust's other 163 acres in town. The project, which is just in the planning phase right now, will provide hiking, biking and many family and wildlife friendly features. Ms. Sherman described the location of the property on the left side of Rte 9 just past New Biddeford Rd going west. Mr. Mulvihill asked Ms. Smith if she knew how the tax value is of the Trust's latest land acquisition would impact the town's budgets. After a brief discussion, it was concluded that this issue was not a matter within the Committee's jurisdiction.

4. Plowing of sidewalks

Mr. Driver noted receipt of one email complaint about the town plows destroying their lawn and asked Ms. Smith if she could ask the plow drivers to be more careful in their duties.

5. GRB brochure – omission in current version

Mr. Driver acknowledged receipt of a note pointing out that the beach brochure omits a statement about leaving the beach clean. Ms. Burke responded she would be in touch with Ms. Gustin and report back to the Committee before ordering the 2019 brochures.

6. Storm Preparations – stones at entrances

Mr. Driver reported that the lack of rocks at the beach entrances during the winter of 2017-18 had caused flooding problems. The stones have been placed again at the entrances for the upcoming winter to prevent flooding such as occurred in March. A number of the trash cans are still there but will be most likely be moved before any plowable snow arrives.

7. Discussion of Kayak deliveries and of handicap parking space on Jeffrys Way

Mr. Driver reminded the Committee that there was a lengthy discussion at the August meeting regarding Jeffry's Way. There are concerns regarding pedestrian safety from access for cars doing pick-up and drop-off of individuals and beach equipment and the use of the street by several kayak companies for drop-off and pick-up of their kayaks which involves backing in a large truck and trailer on a narrow road. One possible solution to some of the congestion suggested was to move the handicapped parking space to the Edgewood entrance and move a non-handicapped parking space from Edgewood to New Biddeford Rd. Mr. Driver asked Ms. Smith if she had spoken with the Police Chief to see if he can provide another space on New Biddeford Road to relocate the handicapped parking space on Jeffrys Way. Ms. Smith replied she has not received a response yet from the Police Chief.

Ms. Barbara Barwise stated that she has an issue with moving the handicapped space off of Jeffrys Way as it gives handicapped people access to all of the beach in conjunction with the handicapped spaces at Dyke Road, and Edgewood Avenue. Mr. Driver agreed with Ms. Barwise's statement. He then stated that a suggestion had been made of designating

Jeffrys Way, at least seasonally, as a “local traffic only” road; meaning no private pick-up/drop-off and no commercial deliveries. Mr. Dykstra asked if Jeffrys Way was made a “residents only” road would that require the handicapped space to be moved. Mr. Driver responded it might as the police chief did suggest it was an impediment to the use of Jeffrys Way. Mr. Dykstra added the residents don’t have an impediment they have a driveway to turn into.

Switching to the issue of the kayak deliveries at the beach, Mr. Driver asked Ms. Smith if the General Store would object to having the kayak companies use their lot for deliveries instead of on Jeffrys Way. Ms. Smith replied she did not have a plan to talk to the General Store as she was talking to Werner Gilliam about the use issue with the General Store as it depends on what kind of business is transacted there; i.e. just delivering, money transactions, training sessions, etc. Mr. Driver responded it would be the same thing that happens on Jeffrys Way, as it would not be any different. Ms. Smith added it would depend and require her to speak to the rental companies to see what their plans are.

Mr. Driver commented there may be some issue designating Jeffrys Way as residents only with the Board of Selectmen as it would suggest eliminating a commercial vendor’s business opportunity. Ms. Burke disagreed with Mr. Driver’s statement as it is not limiting any commercial opportunities but instead eliminating their access to a very narrow, short street and that the safety of the residents and pedestrians is paramount to any business opportunity. Ms. Barwise stated that she does not understand why the town should accommodate the kayak delivery company as they also deliver at Edgewood Avenue, Proctor Lane, as well as the west end of the beach. To emphasize the point that pedestrian traffic will only increase in the near future on Jeffrys Way, Mr. Mulvihill read an advertisement for the Binnacle Hill subdivision which mentions the beach as within walking distance via Jeffrys Way. Ms. Sherman suggested if the kayak delivery companies are delivering on Dyke Road they be required to deliver before 7:30am to avoid the high traffic time. Mr. Driver added it was considered to restrict the timing of deliveries to before 8:00am and after 6:00pm.

Mr. Driver asked if the town had the authority to make Jeffrys Way a local traffic only road. Ms. Smith replied yes the town could limit it to local traffic only, and that designation has nothing to do with access for pedestrians. Ms. Burke added that the Committee has a responsibility to address the public safety issue and it is not our responsibility to find an alternative site for an entrepreneur. Ms. Smith cautioned the Committee to make sure they were solving one problem while creating another and to possibly look at where the customer base was and who is being impacted if they designate Jeffrys Way as local traffic only. Mr. Mark Veillet of Kings Lane addressed the Committee to suggested moving 2 or 3 parking spaces along Kings Hwy to create a drop-off zone for the kayak companies as well as families going to the beach. Mr. Sherman commented that perhaps trying to find a solution for the kayak delivery companies by taking 2 or 3 parking spaces for a drop-off area is essentially a commercial use for beach property and most likely something that the Committee shouldn’t be trying to do. Mr. Dykstra commented he thinks the drop-off area would be used more by families. Ms. Burke responded that is already happening at all of the entrances to the beach where families park in the yellow striped areas to load/unload.

Ms. Burke made a motion the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Jeffrys Way be made a Residents Only access, No stopping, Standing, Parking, No Drop-off, pedestrian traffic only except for residents. Mr. Mulvihill seconded the motion. Mr. Dykstra suggested adding a sentence to assess the impact on the handicapped parking spot. Ms. Burke amended her motion to suggest to the Board of Selectmen that Jeffrys Way become a street on which no stopping, standing, no parking with exception of the handicapped space after consultation with the Police Chief, and vehicular access only for residents of that street. Mr. Mulvihill seconded Ms. Burke’s amended motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion (5-0).

4. Maine Healthy Beaches Presentation on water quality testing

Mr. Driver introduced the agenda item.

Ms. Laurie Smith gave an update on some of the figures compiled with regards to this past summer’s beach activity. Her update included the following items:

- Total of 9,189 beach stickers sold this summer that includes approximately 6,000 daily passes w/ approximately 2,500 resident passes sold.
- 2017 had 8,448 total stickers sold with about 500 more resident stickers but had fewer daily stickers.
- Violations: 664 parking violations which was down from 2017 by 80.
- Dog violations were up from 2017 at 19 violations which was the same as 2016.
- There were no fireworks complaints reported.
- There 2 complaints this year of loud music on the beach as well as 2 violations for drinking alcohol.
- There were also 2 complaints of beach fires.
- 1 motorized vehicle complaint on the beach
- 2 citations for dog violations and 1 dog bite violation to report.

Ms. Smith introduced the Maine Healthy Beach presentation and invited Allison Kenneway, Director of Public Health and Werner Gilliam, Director of Planning & Development to come up to the podium.

Ms. Kenneway addressed the Committee and gave a brief presentation on the beach testing performed this past season at Goose Rocks Beach and Colony Beach.

Mr. Werner Gilliam then addressed the Committee and provided a brief summary of the work the two interns performed with regards to water quality testing as well as performing a number of site visits to witness various stages of construction of septic systems. Ms. Smith commented the Maine Healthy Beaches program is an ongoing component and was successful in obtaining very helpful data but there is still a lot to learn.

Ms. Meagan Simms, the Program Coordinator for the Maine Healthy Beaches program that spans from Kittery to Mt. Desert Island, addressed the Committee and gave a detailed slideshow presentation on the testing, monitoring, and possible causes of elevated bacterial levels on the beach. Mr. Leffler asked if the rental agents are notified of their concerns so that they could pass that information onto their renters. Ms. Simms responded they haven't but they should.

Mr. Sherman asked what the cost of participating in this program is and if it is covered through the Beach Advisory Committee budget. Ms. Smith replied the town did budget some of the money for this in the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee reserve fund but they also received a donation from the campground as part of their Planning Board approval. The Maine Healthy Beaches program has also been very forthcoming with funding they had to support us as well, Ms. Smith added.

Mr. Driver asked if there were any questions from the audience in attendance. There were none.

5. Other new business

Mr. Driver announced he received a letter thanking the town for installing the speed bumps along New Biddeford Road.

6. Date for Next Meeting

Arlene McMurray will supply the Committee with available dates to hold the next Beach Advisory Meeting in late January or early February.

7. Further Public Comments

Mr. Sherman expressed his thanks and gratitude to his fellow Committee members, the Town Manager and staff and the Beach Community as whole who work steadfast to make Goose Rocks Beach the best it can be.

There were no further comments or questions from the Committee members or the audience in attendance.

8. Adjourn

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