

Rye Beach Committee Report - 2015

The Rye Beach Committee consists of Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal, Keper Connell, and Steve Hillman. They were charged with observing activity on the beaches and gathering comments and thoughts of beach goers. Based on the Beach Committee's observations and feedback, they were asked to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

During the summer the Committee had four meetings where they discussed various issues and exchanged ideas based on their observations and conversations with residents and other beach goers. It should also be mentioned that Chief Walsh attended every meeting and provided valuable feedback and insights. Chief

Lambert also attended several meetings and provided useful information. Below is a list of the Committee's thoughts and recommendations:

- In several of our meetings the Rye Beach Committee discussed “signage” on some of the roads around the beaches. Lori Carbajal and the rest of the Committee often discussed the amount of trash left by beach goers. More “DO NOT LITTER” signs with a significant fine posted by Rye, the State or both, might help deter people from littering. The Committee realizes littering is difficult to monitor and actually catch people in the act of littering but some kind of action ... like more “signage” and attempting to actually fine people who litter ... might help alleviate and deter people from littering.
 - The Rye Beach Committee recommends a new charge from the Board of Selectmen to curate and help monitor the efforts of the Blue Ocean Society and the NH Surfrider Foundation (non-profit organizations) who conduct active beach clean-up events throughout the calendar year. The main focus of these two organizations is to clean up some beach locations like Jenness and Pirates Cove. The Rye Beach Committee could help manage and pinpoint locations like along Rt. 1A, adjacent access roads, turn-offs and parking locations. This incentive will lessen the burden of town resources and might encourage more involvement.



- With the increase in beach goers there has also been an increase in trash left on the beaches and along the sides of the roads. A recommendation would be to provide more trash cans on the beaches especially at Sawyers Beach. In addition, the Committee would also recommend more routine and regular trash pick-up.
- The Committee was charged with “counting and documenting” the number of cars that are parked while enjoying the beach. Larry Rocha counted cars on two separate occasions and noted the different license plates. Below are the results:
 - Thursday, July 2, 2015 ... Sunny, air 76 degrees, water 61 degrees.
 - Perkins Road: 20 cars ... 8 NH, 2 MA, 1 NY, 9 Canada.
 - Jenness Beach Parking Lot: 35 NH, 14 MA, 4 VT, 2 NY, 3 ME, 3 CT, 16 Canada.
 - Sawyer’s: 6 MA (no sticker), 4 CT (no sticker), 2 VT (no sticker), 4 NH (no sticker) ... the rest were NH (with sticker).
 - Along 1A: 37 MA, 11 VT, 7 CT, 4 ME, 1 OH, 2 NJ, 3 RI, 38 Canada ... the rest were NH.
 - Sunday, August 16, 2015 ... Sunny, air 85 degrees, water 64 degrees.
 - Perkins Road: 22 cars ... 9 NH, 5 MA, 3 VT, 5 Canada.
 - Jenness Beach Parking Lot: 41 NH, 19 MA, 3 VT, 1 NY, 2 CT, 12 Canada.
 - Sawyer’s: 8 MA (no sticker), 3 CT (no sticker), 1 VT (no sticker), 3 NH (no sticker) ... the rest were NH (with sticker).
 - Along 1A: 51 MA, 17 VT, 8 CT, 1 AK, 1 NM, 32 Canada ... the rest were NH.
 - The Rye Beach Committee wondered what affect the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development Division of Travel and Tourism and other organizations promoting tourism has on the number of visitors to Rye, NH. The Committee recommends the town of Rye, NH pursue the state for solid information on marketing and target demographics that encourage beach goers to visit the town of Rye beaches. The Committee recommends that the state provide seasonal funding to manage the beach use increase. These funds would be to support enforcement and infrastructure management.

- As the number of visitors to the beaches in Rye increases the issue of parking seems to be an issue with many of the residents of Rye. Cars and RV's are parking in the neighborhood on the west side of Route 1A. Below are a few photos of cars parking on the portion of Perkins Road (that is parallel to Route 1A), cars and trailers parking on Maple Avenue (22 cars in total) and someone letting 8 cars park on the lawn (with owner's permission). Chief Walsh has said in our meetings that he will talk with the residents of certain locations that seem to get most of the traffic. He did have talks with several people this past summer.

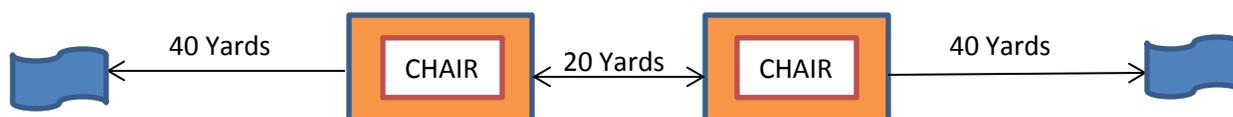


- The Rye Beach Committee recommend:
 - Increasing the parking fine to \$50.
 - Exploring “satellite parking” with shuttle buses to beach locations.
 - Providing bike racks at certain locations. Steve Hillman has suggested he might be able to get Gus's Bike Shop to donate racks.
 - Kiosk be placed on Route 1A and the funds be used for funding beach management.

- The Rye Beach Committee strongly recommends a Permit Application Fee of \$100. The revenue from this fee should go to beach maintenance.
 - The Committee also recommends a deadline date to apply for a permit should be established. If an application is not in by the deadline a permit would not be granted.
- The Rye Beach Committee spent time at each meeting discussing the lifeguard system. The Committee agrees that the Rye Police Department should be responsible for the maintenance of public order, prevention and detection of crimes. The Committee has worked hand-in-hand with Chief Walsh with issues involving the beach. The Committee also agrees that the Rye Fire Department should be responsible for the day to day operations of the Lifeguard services. The Committee has provided advice and counsel to Chief Lambert at a few of our meetings. Jake MacGlashing also attended one meeting. Below are our recommendations:
 - Lifeguard stands should be mobile so they can be moved closer to the water at low tide. These stands could be chained to something at the end of the day.
 - There should be consistent flag placement and optimize chair placement.
 - If there is one chair, the chair should be placed in the middle of the flag placement. There should be 30 yards on each side of the chair.



- If there are two chairs placed about 20 yards in between with the flags 40 yards outside of each chair.



- There should be lifesaving practice at least once a week. This should include all of the equipment the lifeguards use in the event of an emergency. Lifesaving on the ocean is different from lifesaving at a pool. Have Jake or someone with ocean experience demonstrate the proper use of the lifeguard equipment.
 - For instance, the Rye Beach committee observed the rescue boards were placed in the sand with the skeg facing the ocean. The nose of the rescue board should be facing the ocean. This advice was suggested several times but was not corrected consistently.
- As members of the Rye Beach Committee one of our charges was to gather information from residents and beach goers. When an issue comes to the Committee, we discuss the issue to see if any recommendations are needed. The issue of surf camps, surf lessons and Stand Up Paddleboards comes to the Committee's attention from time to time. To this end, Larry Rocha contacted the National Surf School and Instructors Association (NSSIA). He sent out e-mails to seven of the suggested contact people. The Committee was looking for answers to the following questions:
 - 1. What is the maximum number (or ideal number) of surfers in a surf camp?
 - 2. What is the ratio of campers per instructor in a surf camp?
 - 3. What is the number of surfers per instructor in a surf lesson?
 - 4. Should there be someone on the beach serving as a "lifeguard" on the beach?

Larry also talked with several surf shop owners on the east coast about the same questions. There was no general agreement on the issue of the number of campers in a surf camp. Most people said it would depend on the conditions in the water and the age group. The head instructor should make the "call" if the group needs to be split up into groups with some on the beach and some in the water if the conditions dictate splitting the group. There was a consensus on the number of surfers per instructor for camps and lessons. The ratio is 1 to 3 or 1 to 4. On the last question of someone watching from the beach was again not generally consistent. Some said someone should be on the beach and some felt it was better to have the

people in the water watch carefully as the surfers are returning after catching a wave. It would be the head instructor that should make the “call” on if it is safer to have someone on the beach or just careful attention from the water. Again, this would depend on the water conditions.

- It appears that the guidelines set up in the permits last year fall within the information that was gathered for this report. The Committee just request that these guidelines continue to be followed so all beach goers and enjoy their “day at the beach”.
- Based on the information above the Rye Beach Committee makes the following recommendations:
 - All Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP) should have leashes.
 - Surf shops should continue to provide a pamphlet with safety guidelines for both SUPs and surfboards. The personnel at the surf shop should go over this pamphlet with the user of the SUPs or surfboards. Below are a few things that should be in the pamphlet:
 - Safe distance from shore.
 - Always wear the leash.
 - Safe method to get into the water and out of the water.
 - Surf etiquette.
 - The same things that are in the pamphlets should be discussed with people taking lessons and people in the surf camps.
- Lastly, there are several issues that some members of the Rye Beach Committee would like to continue to explore in the future are:
 - The issue of loading and unloading.
 - The movement of the surf camps so that the camps are not always in the same location.

This report is submitted on December 28, 2015 and signed by:

Larry Rocha: 

Lori Carbajal: LC (permission to sign with initials was granted by Lori Carbajal)

Keper Connell: KC (permission to sign with initials was granted by Keper Connell)

Steve Hillman: SH (permission to sign with initials was granted by Steve Hillman)