

TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE
Monday, November 20, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall

Commission Present: *Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Joan Zofnass, Anne Baker, Selectmen's Rep Tom King, and Alternate Doug Beattie*

I. Call to Order

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Comment
None

III. Approval of Minutes – 10/16/23

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 4th sentence should read: **Lt. MacGlashing pointed out that he allowed this, but once it warmed up, the message to the lifeguards was to make sure the chairs were the swim zone.**
- Page 2, 2nd to last paragraph, last sentence should read: **However, there are not so many people in the water and it is not a dangerous situation.**
- Page 3, Environmental Services, the first two sentences should read: **This line item is used to cover costs for lab testing collecting by NH Surf Riders. The samples are taken to Jackson Lab at UNH to look for Enterococci bacteria.**

Motion by Joan Zofnass to accept the minutes of October 16, 2023 as corrected. Seconded by Anne Baker. All in favor.

IV. 2024 Budget Info

Chair Sullivan reported that the Select Board and Budget Committee supported the 2024 Beach Committee Budget. The Committee put additional funds in the budget to cover extra testing at the beaches during the offseason.

V. Voluntary water sampling procedures/transport to UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab

The Committee discussed the procedure for the extra testing during the shoulder season; May and September. It was noted by Chair Sullivan that the Department of Environmental Services does the testing beginning Memorial Day until Labor Day. It was suggested by Member Zofnass

to add one other testing time when the beaches are quiet; such as, the end of October. She also suggested taking a sample in April. There was discussion about what beaches should be tested. Chair Sullivan pointed out that Surfriders does Sawyers, and Jenness State in Rye. Surfriders has been doing four samples and the Committee has supported adding a fifth. There was also discussion about the Committee being trained to take the offseason samples and transporting them to the lab.

VI. Brainstorm re: themes for RES 2024 Eco-Posters

The Committee agreed that the students' ideas for the recent posters were great. There was some discussion about having students design the beach parking stickers for the 2025 season. Selectman King agreed to send Chair Sullivan the parameters for the parking stickers, as they have to be of a certain material and size.

VII. Suggestions to DPW for consolidating signs and labeling dog waste containers

Chair Sullivan reported that if the Committee has any ideas for consolidating the signs and labeling the dog waste containers, DPW Jason Rucker is open to hearing from the Committee. There was discussion about possible ideas.

It was noted by Selectman King that two dog waste barrels are still out at Wallis Sands and Cable. The State also has one at Jenness State Park. He pointed out that the dog waste barrels have not necessarily been unanimously supported. It's not guaranteed that those will be out every year. Right now, the trash pickup at the beaches has been extended a month on either side of the season. The trash is picked up from about May 1st to October 1st. That is the regular trash contract for the beaches with five or six barrels at a couple of beaches. The barrels for the rest of the year are just the two dog waste containers and that's done by DPW.

Member Zofnass suggested raising the dog licensing fee by \$5.00 and using the funds to purchase the dog waste containers. She also suggested encouraging Waste Management to donate their time to pick up as they are driving by, so it's not just DPW.

Selectman King pointed out that Chair Sullivan brought up the idea, in the past, about approaching the businesses at those beach locations to sponsor trash cans. There could be additional trash cans put out; such as, Concord Point. Businesses might be willing to sponsor all or part of the trash pickup. There are opportunities for both dog waste and trash containers, if the businesses step up to sponsor. He noted that the problem with this idea would be from a sustainability standpoint if a business pulls their funding. However, he thinks this would be worth a try. He's not sure what it would cost to have this done commercially. He continued that Chair Sullivan also brought up the idea of the trash being picked up at the sponsored location at the same time the business has its trash picked up. This would theoretically work; whether it's dog waste in the off season or garbage during season.

There was some discussion about increasing the dog licensing fees. Chair King noted that the Select Board reviews all the town fees once a year. He pointed out that they've never tried to fund things for the beach through the dog licensing fees. The beach items are funded through beach funding; however, there is no reason why it couldn't be done.

Alternate Beattie pointed out that people come from outside of Rye with their dogs. Now the Rye dog owners are paying for everyone else.

Selectman King commented that some taxpayers who do not own dogs object to paying for any of the beach activities.

The Committee agreed that they may poll some businesses to find out their thoughts about the idea of sponsoring a barrel. Selectman King noted that he will provide the Committee with the contract price for the beach garbage pickup. The current contractor is by far the low bidder, as it would be much more if the Town had to use Waste Management.

VIII. Update on G-Street Beach Access – Others

Selectman King agreed to follow up on this and bring back more information.

IX. December 18, 2023 Meeting

Motion by Joan Zofnass to skip December's meeting. Seconded by Anne Baker. All in favor.

The Committee's next two monthly meetings fall on holidays, so the dates will need to be changed. Chair Sullivan suggested the dates of January 17th and February 21st. The Committee discussed changing the week of the meeting permanently to be earlier in the month. Selectman King will look at days that may be open for meetings and will bring the information back to the Committee for consideration.

X. Other/New Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Joan Zofnass to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. Seconded by Anne Baker. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger