

Rye Beach Committee Report - 2018

The Rye Beach Committee consists of Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal, Keper Connell, Steve Hillman and Brad Fulkerson. 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. Chief Walsh, Chief Cotreau and Selectman Keri Roman attended many of those meetings.

Below is a list of the Committee's thoughts and recommendations:

- As the number of visitors to the beaches in Rye increases the issue of parking is a major concern with many of the residents of Rye. The parking issue must be addressed and not put off. The town of Rye must take some serious steps to deter people from parking illegally. The committee received numerous e-mails and many residents expressed their frustration of cars parking "everywhere". **The Committee recommends:**
 - **Increasing the parking fines** to \$75 and \$200 for illegally parking in permit parking only.
 - **Hire a towing company to tow cars that are parking illegally.** Some residents have used signs saying, "NO PARKING, CARS WILL BE TOWED AT OWNERS EXPENSE". Those signs are very effective, and the town should use similar signage. Towing a few cars that are parked illegally would send a message that parking illegally will not be tolerated in the Town of Rye.
 - There needs to be **NO LOADING/NO UNLOADING** signage at places like Sawyers Beach. When non-residents load and unload it takes up a parking spot for residents. The Rye Beach Committee recommends this ordinance should be strictly enforced.
 - The Rye Beach Committee discovered that the **HAMPTON BEACH GUIDE** lists Sawyer's Beach as being owned by the Town of Rye and that a special resident sticker is need to park along Rt 1A but then goes on to say, "you can find beach access either along wooden planks laid atop the rocks in season, and a path next to the Rye Beach Club. ... Don't head to Sawyer's for the bathrooms. There are none. But there's also no crowd. Which can be a beautiful thing." This means that to have access to the beach people would need to park in the Resident Sticker only area and UNLOAD and LOAD. As mentioned above, this is not acceptable. **The Committee believes publications like this have contributed to the concerns at Sawyer's Beach and recommends the Town of Rye should ask the state to change the wording in the Hampton Beach Guide to read: "The only way for visitors to access Sawyer's Beach is by way of Jenness Beach and walking south."**
 - **Perkins Road has become "ground zero" for parking issues** due to its proximity to Jenness Beach State Park. Many residents on Perkins Road have expressed concerns of safety issues. We would like the state's assistance to post a sign or have an attendant direct people to Wallis Sands Sate Park when Jenness Beach parking lot is full. Perkins Road needs a solution. The Rye Beach Committee discussed having NO PARKING on Perkins Road but in the end the **committee is recommending that parking on**

Perkins Road be for Rye residents with a Beach Parking Permit and “boxing off” the driveways on Perkins Road. The Rye Beach Committee also recommends that side roads west of Route 1A should also be No Parking and/or Rye Permit Parking.

- The Committee was charged with “counting and documenting” the number of cars that are parked while enjoying the beach. After four years of documenting car count, the data has been consistent: New Hampshire plates 40%, Quebec plates 35% and Massachusetts plates 20%. Another problem was the considerable number of large vans and RVs that park in the parking lot at Jenness Beach and along Route 1A. **The Rye Beach Committee recommends:**
 - The Town of Rye and the Board of Selectmen make a formal request for the support of the State for **eliminating RV parking** at the parking lot at Jenness Beach and along Rt. 1A.
- **The Rye Beach Committee recommend not placing a Port-o-Potty at Sawyers Beach** for the following reasons:
 - Environmental Risk: Does not conform with RSA 485A Water Pollution/Waste Disposal
 - Parking: Car pulling over on both sides of Rt. 1A to use the Port-o-Potty. This is a safety issue.
 - Aesthetically Unpleasant: The smell and visual of a Port-o-Potty along a beautiful scenery of Sawyers Beach.
 - The Rye Beach Committee believe the people suggesting the need of a Port-o-Potty because of the times when it is not possible to walk to Jenness Beach to use the bathroom facilities can use another beach on those days when they cannot walk along the beach to Jenness Beach.
- Another major concern of the Rye Beach Committee was the planting of **DUNE GRASS** by private homeowners that encroaches on public space beyond their property line. The Committee would **recommend that the Town of Rye be diligent in monitoring any planting of dune grass on our beaches and remove any dune grass that encroaches on public space.**
- Lastly the Rye Beach Committee would like the following be part of their **CHARGE for 2019:**
 - The Rye Beach Committee have full input regarding all recreational beach permits.
 - The Rye Beach Committee should be consulted in unison with the Conservation Committee in aspects and request on all Rye beaches.
 - Be involved with the state RSA to explore and formulate a pay-to-park along Rt. 1A and eliminating oversized vehicles, RVs and campers from parking in the Jenness Beach parking lot and along Rt 1A.