

Rye Beach Committee Meeting Minutes March 20, 2019

Members in attendance

Larry Rocha, Steve Hillman, Keper Connell, Brad Fulkerson, Lori Carbajal

Meeting called to order by Larry Rocha at 7:38 PM

PARKING ISSUES - Keper Connell opened the meeting regarding the parking issues within the neighborhoods of town beaches specifically Jenness Precinct and toning down the issues of concern, and dealing with them in a manner that can work for everyone.

Lori Carbajal provided base research regarding resident parking permits issued to town residents as well as property owners. The information provided is attached to these minutes.

In the review of the high number of permits many of which are issued to the same household regardless of how many people are on the deed or vehicles registered within the town of Rye, it seems this may too be contributing to the overall congestion and lack of space to resident only spaces of which there are a total of 132. In 2018 a total of 8561 vehicles were registered in the Town of Rye and 2725 resident parking permits were issued. Ms. Carbajal felt that although we want to assure residents have the ability to get to the beach and may not all be going at the same time from one household, this is contributing to the lack of parking for residents. She further stated that given the number of vehicles registered some may be registering their vehicles in Rye while not being a registered voter, though that cannot be known until we do further research on what is needed i.e., are registered voters cross-searched when registering. Is there a database to cross-search without too much additional work on town employees registering motor vehicles? Ms. Carbajal stated it would not be a surprise if some may be gaming the system to register motor vehicles in Rye, NH whereas they may live in another state to avoid paying income tax in that state. She stated adding the extra layer of management of these parking permits should be looked at and perhaps a limit should be placed on residents and non-resident property owners in the number of parking permits issued to a household. Brad Fulkerson stated, how can you limit when you may have four cars in a household and the residents don't go to the beach at the same time as when parents may be at work children with autos may want to go. Lori Carbajal agreed that could be the situation however, maybe the first two issued permits to resident owners could be at the \$25.00 cost and subsequent permits could be \$50.00 or \$75.00 each up to no more than 4 per household. She added that given most non-resident property owners live in close proximity to the beach, there is no need for more than one or two permits being issued to that property. It is not very likely that an out of state property owner comes here only in the summer and owns in West Rye and would have to drive, though felt this may be on a case by case exception basis when the home address is viewed at the time of permit request.

Brad Fulkerson did quick math on the revenue to the town from permit fees and the figures was over \$68,000.00 and that's hard to give up. Larry Rocha felt that the issuance of more than two permits to households should have a higher fee which may make up for the lost revenue. Committee felt the issuance needed to be looked at in more depth with more data provided by the town.

Lori Carbajal stated a missing sector of the non-resident access population that should be considered for permit parking suggested, one parking permit be issued to all full time non

resident town employees at a cost of \$75.00 for the season and parking provided on lower Perkins and Cable Road and marked accordingly. That way access is still allowed and expanded since they cannot be town residents to obtain, be full time and only park in the designated areas. Committee members felt there were too many issues they were dealing with and that could be something down the road. Lori Carbajal felt this may resolve the Perkins issue to not close out to non- residents and still leave availability to our town employees and should be on the table.

PARKING COMMITTEE – Larry Rocha asked Steve Hillman also a member of the Parking Committee (non-voting member), what progress had been made thus far in terms of new solutions regarding Perkins and other areas of parking concern. Mr. Hillman stated every issue and remedy our beach committee had formulated are the only aspects/solutions the parking committee has discussed including the “no access to Perkins from Ocean Blvd., and have provided no new ideas on parking recommendations and they will likely end up going with our recommendations in the end. Larry Rocha felt the residents of that area had not bothered to read any of the minutes or year end reports provided by the beach committee and that is why he gave each member a copy of our yearly reports and minutes as an educational tool so they could be better informed on our work and thoughtful aspects concerning residents and non-residents alike. Committee members agreed we’ve not taken lightly any of the issues we’ve been faced with, and no member has carried their personal agenda into discussion on any matter. It should be clear to the town and especially the members of the parking committee, that we have carefully vetted every aspect that’s come before us especially with the port-a-pot issue at Sawyers Beach which is a stellar example of our work.

DUNE GRASS F Street and G Street – Steve Hillman wanted to revisit the issues regarding the planting of dune grass on the public beach from F Street to G Street and why nothing has been done on this issue. Larry Rocha stated that in the summer of 2018 when this issue was at the forefront he met with members of NH DES, and Lori Carbajal to view the plantings specifically at F Street. At that time, it was determined that the homeowner did permit however DES believed based on the survey the homeowner provided, the home owner is outside of their property boundary. It was estimated at that time to be approximately 15 feet into the public beach. Mr. Hillman stated that at the same BOS meeting the porta-pot issue was being discussed, a presentation was done by Allison Eberhart and UNH on the plantings of dune grass where a slide show was done to show restoration. At that meeting it is believed the presenters stated the restoration grass could be planted no closer than 100’ from mean high tide and if that is the case, these planting are encroaching far into the defined no planting recommendation. Keper Connell stated this is not about restoration or erosion protection in terms of these plantings by these specific homeowners, but more about hiding the public from the homeowners and pushing them away from their homes. All other committee members agreed on this point. Steve Hillman stated although the Rye Conservation Commission granted the go ahead, it was not followed up on in terms of where the grass was actually planted. Larry Rocha stated the plantings there are like rows of corn and are matched with the neighbor to the north that did not request permitting and simply planted in the space with no oversight or permission from the town nor from the state.

Lori Carbajal agreed adding, that the area between the homeowners’ border to the mean high tide is within the Town of Rye’s jurisdiction and the town is not understanding that is a fact. This jurisdictional aspect was provided by NH DES during the site walk. She said at a minimum, the

town should survey and determine by each deed where the homeowners' boundary extends to and require the homeowner to pull up anything that is not on their property that they planted. Larry Rocha was surprised that the grass didn't get moved this year due to storms though we haven't had any. Keper Connell stated March and April can bring huge storms to the area and it's not over yet.

Keper Connell stated he would contact Allison Eberson to obtain more information on her program and see if she would be interested in attending one of our meetings.

Larry Rocha reminded committee members to put in their letters to him this week in order to serve another year on the beach committee for the 2019-2020 season. All members intend to serve.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM