

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday September 23, 2020 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Frank Hwang, Mary-Ann Sullivan, Roseann Vozella Clark

Prospective members: Shaunna Zelazo and Brendan Carney

Guests: Sally Soule, Amanda Mc Quaid, and David Neils from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services

Assistance from Janice Ireland

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:05 and greeted everyone present. He asked the new members if they had an opportunity to get sworn in. They had not.

Frank read the attestation. The roll was called all members were alone in their homes. There was no public comment. The minutes from the September 1,2020 meeting were not sent out to the members so Roseann will resubmit them to Janice along with the September 23,2020 minutes.

Frank introduced the guest speakers. David Neils has worked for the DEA for twenty years, Amanda Mc Quaid runs the beach program taking water samples from the beaches monitoring bacteria levels and Kate Soule has worked for the past twenty years on watershed assistance on the Parson's Creek Project. Kate has written a number of grants for the town to address reducing levels of bacteria in storm drains, runoff, and septic system issues which effect Parsons Creek. She stated that it is a very tricky system both environmentally, socially, and economically and that all aspects are equally challenging.

It was further explained that beginning in 2008/2009 there was a Watershed Based Plan monitoring the levels of bacteria in the creek. There is a lot of data on their website related to this. In 2013 to 2016 Grants addressed storm water issues. As a result of that out reach was done regarding dog waste and signage and signs were used. Some septic systems that were failing have been addressed and there are new regulations stating that systems in that area need to be pumped every three years, as well as have the system inspected. The town has been a strong partner in this work.

Mary-Ann asked how we an advisory committee could help in the work that has been done. Frank explained that our committee has replaced the Beach Commission and that we gather information and advise the selectmen on issues related to the beaches. He sighted members of the public's concerns about the result of water testing at Pirate Cove beach and the advisory as a result of a reading at that beach this summer.

Amanda said that she tests the beaches two times a week every week during the summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Many factors may result in a high bacteria count such as a hot day, large amounts of people, ducks in the water, even the amount of decaying seaweed can cause bacteria levels to rise. When the level is high an advisory is posted and the water is retested with-in two days.

Surfriders have offered to help to extend the water testing beyond Labor Day. It was explained that the sample needs to be taken in knee deep water in special bottles, paper work needs to be done, the sample has to be kept cool and then sent to the lab in Concord where the data is collected and available on the website.

There was some discussion as to the feasibility for volunteers to provide this service, so that bacteria levels could be recorded into October as there are a lot of swimmers and surfers who could benefit from this information. The Surfriders may be a group that could help with this. Members will address the next Beach Committee meetings on topics that we can perhaps partner on.

Topics for future meetings will include parking, eel grass, access for the public to the beach, and litter problems including dog feces. To that ends the Committee members will conduct a beach walk beginning at Cable Road at 3:00 p.m. on October 9,2020.

Guests to the next Beach Committee meeting members of Surfriders and Chief Walsh to address parking questions.

The next meeting will be October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann Vozella Clark