

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday October 14,2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Frank Hwang, Mary-Ann Sullivan, Brendan Carney, Seana Zelazo, Roseann Vozella Clark

Guest Speakers: Members of Surfrider Foundation: Ryan Suplee, Rebecca O'Brian, and Chris Gripo

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:05. He welcomed the Surfriders to the meeting. Attendance was taken and all members and guests were alone in the room.

Frank read the attestation. There were no public comments. The Minutes of the Beach Walk done by Mary-Ann were gratefully accepted by the members. Due to a computer issue Ms. Ireland had not received the minutes of the last two meetings prior to this meeting. Ms. Ireland received them and forwarded them on to the members the next day.

The Surfriders explained that they are part of a national foundation. They fund raise, do beach clean-ups, work on plastic mitigation and water quality issues. They utilize social media and have a website where the public can access information. Surfriders work on state and local issues regarding beach access and water quality issues.

They reviewed how the water is tested from Memorial Day through Labor Day by the DES at North Hampton, Sawyer, Jenness, Wallis Sands Beaches. From September through May members of Surfriders have conducted water sampling by taking the samples to the DES office at Pease where it is sent on to the Lab in Concord. The results are available with-in 24 hours and are posted on the Surfrider website as well on the DES website.

They further explained that there may be elevated levels of fecal matter in the water samples taken during the shoulder season. These levels may not prompt a beach closure but are still of concern. Possible sources of fecal matter may be water fowl, sewage overflows, and drainage of Eel Pond.

Committee members asked about the cost of the testing and what an off- season water testing might look like. It was felt that perhaps \$3,000 would cover the

cost. However, the DES had already told the Committee that there were budget cuts and the amount budgeted for next year at the DES is unknown at this time. It was in question if the Pease office would be no longer available; and if a new lab to process the water samples could be found.

Frank forwarded the Beach Committee Charter to the Surfriders. He also mentioned that the current Selectmen have yet to accept the Beach Committee Charter. Frank said that Beach Committee members support many of the same concerns/issues as the Surfriders and look forward to working with them in the future. He thanked them for their time and efforts.

Mary-Ann reviewed the Beach Walk. She explained public access to the Jenness Beach North to Sunset Path is still an ongoing issue. Access for private or residential parking can be difficult. Pictures of eel grass were taken and entered into the notes.

Frank said that the Selectmen wanted our committee to be aware that there were concerns about dog waste on the beaches. It was felt by members that there should be trash cans provided by the town.

Other topics discussed were to look at the Parking Study of 2015/2016. Questions were raised about the availability of parking along the beaches for both residents and nonresidents and how that has changed overtime.

There will be no guest speakers at the next meeting to give more time to discuss issues the committee would like to address. These issues include: parking, signage, fines, dog waste on the beaches, sea grass and water quality. Frank asked the members to do research on these topics.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on November 18,2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roseann Vozella Clark