

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday April 21, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Members present: Frank Hwang, Mary-Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo and Brendan Carney

Joined by: Bill Epperson, Selectman, Select Board Representative to Beach Committee

Assistance from Janice Ireland and Becky Bergeron

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present. The roll was called and all members were alone in their meeting rooms.

Frank read the attestation.

Public comment. Mary Mitchell, a resident of 17 years of Rye who lives at 562 Washington Rd. joined the meeting. She is interested in joining the Beach Committee. She is a teacher at Greenland and a swim coach at Portsmouth. She is very familiar with the Rye life guards, the beach and water safety. She cares deeply for our access to the beach.

Diedra Larkin, Rye Resident is also joining the meeting. She is also joining the beach committee

The minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved.

#### 1. Update From Chief Walsh:

Parking. Coming into the 2021 season a few changes are coming. Hampton has created more permitted parking. North Hampton has created permit parking only on their part of Causeway Road. Locke Road in North Hampton will most likely see parking difficulties.

Logistically Rye Police is going to work hard to be extremely strict with one hour parking areas in "Lot 1" and Lot 2 traveling south close to Odirone State Park. In order to limit the amount of people parking there and entering OSP without a fee. They are working with the state parks to enforce this.

Parking will be very strict with enforcing the parking at restaurants. Adding extra

There is a no parking sign that will be replaced at Bass Beach and Chief is working with the state to enforce parallel parking only there. No backing into Ocean Blvd.

He is "taking the ordinance and enforcing it."

Parking update on RVs and Campers. Are the allowed and how long can they stay. There is no more conversation around it. The problem is that there is no way to regulate this.

The town of Rye is working hard to find and appropriately staff

#### RES and RJH Earth Day Sign Updates

4th Grade took on the signs for Earth Day. Seana to pick them up tomorrow. Common Roots would love to have some of the signs up in their store. We will discuss various spots once we secure the signs.

Bill confirmed that we can send letters of appreciation from the BOS.

Next steps collect signs and speak to Dennis about posts ect. More to follow.

#### Activities on the Beach that Require Permits

There is currently an application process. Bill stated this is a privilege and not a right. The beach access is not for profit making organizations. Over the last 5 years there has been a lot of work done to make sure that the public is not encumbered adequate access to the beach.

If left "unchecked" certain members of the town will become more vocal about beach access.

Chief Walsh:

8 permits a year are issued. First come first serve. If you have one last year you will receive another one this year. Seems to be fair and just enough to handle the lack of real estate we have. Working on the logistics about how to manage what exactly is high tide. Priority needs to be the general public and to allow citizens to get out of our homes.

We need to ensure public access to the beach and businesses will come second.

The idea of either a donation or a fee for permit was raised.

Chief Walsh's opinion was that this will raise an expectations that the business is owed access and certain rights. The ordinance was created in order to create knowledge to the town so that the town can be insured against any liability. The purpose of the permits is to make sure it's managed appropriately.

Bill spoke about criteria that they have to follow. The BOS reserves the right to review these permits individually. All permits are archived.

Parking is going to be the measure on who is allowed on the beach. 132 parking stickers exist for Rye residents.

Safety on the Beach

- Beach patrol will work 11-7 Wednesday - Sunday. Be on the beach, other violations, being seen by people. Police will be highly visible.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be April 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Carney