

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday May 19, 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.

Frank read the attestation. The roll was called and all members were alone in their meeting rooms.

Public comment.

Jake MacGlashing, Rye firefighter is joining us.

1) The Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

2) Frank read the Attestation

3) Public Comment

4) The of our April meeting was approved

5) Discuss lifeguards at the beach and other updates

4 New Guards are coming. 8 are returning. Lifeguards are strong swimmers. Beach Committee has helped in years passed to make the process easier.

Shark buoys: concern is that there may be sharks close to shore this year. We have been approached by Hampton State Lifeguards and Rye will incorporate the process that has originated down in MASS by Shark Conservatory, MA Fish and Game.

Two types of buoys are available. Data buoys recognized tagged sharks within 1500 ft of where the shark is. They cost around \$2500 dollars. Marine patrol installs these buoys. York last year had six shark buoy activations last year at one point. There are different ID tags that are read.

The second type of buoy is more expensive - around 14,000 dollars. This will notify our lifeguards in real time. The concept here is to keep our coast covered if we develop sharks coming close to shore. The budget has not been finalized yet.

If passed 6 data shark buoys will be employed this year. Likely towards the end of the season. They look like any other buoy and will live 25-30 ft of water and will be fairly close to shore.

Data will be pulled from the buoy every 3 months or so.

Roughly 360 sharks have been tagged. This will give us a good sampling of what is going on. We hope to prevent any type of shark attacks like the one in York, ME last year.

Chief Cotreau mentioned that he is transparent and definitely willing to work with our beach committee. We hope we can keep an open-door policy.

Our lifeguards are from Rye and communities close to Rye. Mostly local young adults.

#### 6) Discussion of lifeguard parking at the beach

Currently lifeguard parking at Sawyers beach includes parking blocked off for lifeguards at the northern end of Sawyers.

The north end was designated for lifeguards to access the beach during storms. Chief stated that the lifeguards will have more room to park and the fear is that if parking is moved to the south end or middle of Sawyers beach there will other cars will park in their reserved spots.

Signage seems to indicate that lifeguards have a longer parking size - approximately 3 vehicles. Public works stated that the sign was not able to be erected further north. The solution to this is to place sawhorses to save the parking spots.

We hope to convey reasons why parking is important for the guards. Firstly it is difficult to find high quality guards and we pride ourselves in having excellent life guards. Parking is an essential issue in securing the quality and number of life guards.

Parking evaluations will be as follows:

- 1) How does this affect the lifeguards operationally
- 2) How important is the advantage in having guards park on the north side

Can we consider having two mopeds for the lifeguards - this will not take up more than 4ft!

Lifeguards will start Memorial Day weekend.

It was noted that the parking is desirable close to the north end of Sawyers beach.

7) Update on RES/RJH carry-in, carry-out signs

Two items: 1) thank you Mary-Ann for research of lamination. 2) Bill thank you for backing of the signs with Dennis from public works. Process is coming along. Ideally we will target to erect signs by Memorial Day.

8) Review recommended guidelines proposed for commercial beach activities

After our meeting last April Chief Walsh had a further discussion with Frank. Themes include:

- not occupying Rye resident parking
- Beach permits are the purview of the BOS
- Required Summer Sessions to conduct a traffic engineer study to access flow in 2015
- Cinnamon Rainbows a good model, does a good job over the years working with community, fire dept + police dept
- For various activities (this year), there are caps: Yoga - 10 and SS camp - 15
- Encouraging them to conduct camps north of Sawyers drain pipe
- In past, the cap has been 25 per session / camps, but sometimes going to 35
- We will watch and see how things go and make further recommendations after this summer

9) Discuss current resident sticker parking permits

Years past 2500 past. Stickers last year was in the 4000+ range. For instance one household this year has 8 beach stickers. We have a finite amount of parking stickers. We expect a dog fight down there for parking this year.

10) Discuss parking restrictions around Bass Beach

Does it make sense to open up Rye resident parking along Causeway Road? Can we find an inclusion criteria that will allow surfers access to this wave? We all agree that it is truly a treasure. Bill will have a conversation with Chief Walsh about this issue again.

11) Discuss/recommend new committee members + alternates

We are nominating Mary to join the committee and Dierdre to join as an alternate.

12) Other Business

None

13) Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be June 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan Carney