

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday, June 23, 2021 @7:00 pm-Town Hall

Members present: Mary-Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo, Mary Mitchell, Bill Epperson - Select Board Representative. Assistance from Janice Ireland

Call to Order

Mary-Ann, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order @7:10 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was the first in-person meeting of the Committee; previous meetings were held via Zoom.

Public Comment

Mary-Ann welcomed Ryan McGill, Summer Sessions. She noted that the Beach Committee supports healthy and safe activities on the beach.

Mary-Ann asked Ryan about the “right to know petition” submitted by Tyler McGill. Ryan said that his brother submitted it and he was not involved. Mary-Ann explained that Frank Hwang (Chair) was out of town and would gather information to respond to Tyler.

Ryan said he wanted to address any concerns/complaints about Summer Sessions Camps and Programs. Last summer, during Covid-19 restrictions, Summer Sessions did not run kids camps and reduced the number of groups. Ryan said that he and his brother, Tyler have run their programs for twenty years and have cooperated with the police and fire departments and other officials. Summer Sessions supports several community service events on the NH Seacoast and offers equipment at a discount to Rye schools and the fire department.

Kids camps are being held in 2021, June 15th-September 1st, 9:30-11:30 am and 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Since no adults signed up for the evening programs, kids surf night sessions are offered on Monday evenings, from 6-7pm. A flex program is offered for semi-private lessons, 7 days per week. See Summer Sessions website for all camp details.

Both Mary M. and Seana Z. said they appreciate the community service activities and wondered if Summer Sessions could find a way to make people aware of these activities.

Mary-Ann said that the Beach Committee supports their efforts and wants Ryan to be aware that the Committee receives concerns/complaints about other areas/groups each year, such as overcrowding, safety in and out of the water, people not following the “carry in/carry out” beach rules, dogs’ behavior/left dog waste bags, seagrass, using private ways for beach access, non-approved beach activities, high tide/low tide property owner concern, and ongoing parking concerns (in particular – Old Beach Road, cars with no stickers, lifeguard spaces and Summer Sessions van @ Sawyers, etc.)

Bill said that Ryan did not have to justify the Summer Sessions program since the Select Board had approved their application for 2021. Bill believes most beachgoers support the policies.

Mary-Ann agreed but noted, as numbers increase, reminders are important. She asked the Committee to approve discussion of Agenda #5 during the public session re: items discussed with Chief Walsh that concern Summer Sessions. All members agreed.

Bill and Mary-Ann explained to Ryan that they would discuss #5 now, since he would not be able to comment after the public session ended.

Ryan said that he had discussed parking the van at Sawyers with Chief Walsh, as they had done for many summers. They keep safety/emergency equipment in the van in order to respond quickly and/or get back to the shop in a timely manner.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 2021 meeting were approved.

Updates on sign project

Kudos to Rye Junior High and Grade 4 students and teachers. Bravo to Committee members who pounded in signs, some during the fierce storms on Memorial Day weekend. Lots of good feedback on the signs, placed at access points: Bass, 5@ Sawyers, E Street, F Street, Cable Extension, Sunrise Path, Old Beach Way, 2 @Foss Beach, 2 @ Wallis Road/Pirates Cove, Concord Point. Still needed @ Philbricks Beach, boardwalk near Beach Club, 2 more@ Foss Beach. Signs also placed at Common Ground, Beach Club, Rye Beach Post Office, Precinct Office, Rye Rec.

Bill will ask Dennis McCarthy for more boards and posts. Thank you to Dennis for the first batch! Mary-Ann will compile summary on “do and do not do” from this year’s project to discuss at a later date.

Updates on commercial beach activities – including open items discussed with Chief Walsh

There were no additional items to discuss

Updates on lifeguard parking at Sawyers

Current system is working with 2 frame barricades at North end (removed when not in use). Beach Committee will monitor this summer.

Beach Permit Stickers

Bill said 3000 stickers were issued for 132 spaces. Some families are issued multiple stickers for different cars, each member listed on a trust can be issued a sticker.

Mary asked about sticker parking adjacent to Jenness Beach. Bill said the Select Board had closed some streets to non-resident parking in Big Rock Road area. Discussion to be continued at a future meeting, including adding bicycle racks.

Bass Beach parking – surf parking allowance

Discussion deferred to another meeting when Brendan is present with more information.

Other Business

Since Roseann left the Committee, Brendan has been taking the notes. Mary-Ann asked if anyone is interested in the position of secretary. If no one is interested, the Committee agreed that we could rotate note-taking.

Adjournment

The meeting adjournment at 7:50pm

The next meeting will be on July 21, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Ann Sullivan