

Rye Beach Committee Minutes

July 21, 2021 7pm Town Hall

Members present: Frank Hwang, Mary- Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo, Brendan Carney, Deidre Larkin, Bill Epperson- Select Board Representative, Chief Walsh, Rye Police Department. Assistance from Janice Ireland.

Call to order.

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Tyler McGill from Summer Sessions discussing Right to Know regarding any concerns raised by the public about Summer Sessions.

Tyler discussed safety and coaching and why there is a need for the SS van to be parked at Sawyers, indicating safety and that his coaches need to be able to get from beach to shop, etc for emergencies. It also houses phone and First Aid resources.

Tyler also reiterated what SS is doing for community service. He asked for the Right to Know of any concerns presented by the public. Bill suggested that Frank share the information about this directly to Tyler to facilitate it and speed up the process. Tyler agreed and wants to pursue accordingly with Frank.

Approval of Minutes: all approved minutes

Agenda:

Beach Clean ups—Do they get permission? Chief Walsh explained folks do not need permission and can participate in beach clean ups on their own. Beach committee agreed to sponsor a few clean ups, noting Memorial Day and Labor Day as possibilities. All agreed to consider this.

Bass Beach parking / Rye Rocks—current policy from Chief Walsh:

It was suggested by Brendan that maybe we could increase parking there during hurricane swell for surf traffic. Chief Walsh stated that it is safer to have parking on the ocean and side not safe for many folks to be crossing 1A with surf boards. Frank asked if it was a good spot for a cross walk and Chief Walsh said it wasn't, that it is unsafe and that the State (it is under State jurisdiction), would not agree to a crosswalk there.

Pick up drop off at town beaches—current policy from Chief Walsh: they cannot stay unless they have a permit on their car if are dropping off. Parking tickets are given and the parking program is very thorough.

Opportunities for more town parking, should we consider more areas for town resident parking that are currently open parking areas e.g. Foss Beach or Old Beach? Chief Walsh indicated that the citizens are not interested in commercializing the beach (paid parking) and indicated this would increase beach trash.

No surf zone at Sawyers, should this move due to the “peak” surf wave and rip tide?

Suggestion made that we meet with Jake (head of lifeguards) from Fire Dept on beach with to highlight concerns and adjust the surf zones.

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Summer Sessions Truck discussion, safety concerns cited by Chief Walsh. Frank raised thought that perhaps the safety issues could be a reason SS move the camp closer to Jennes.

Plan to review parking stickers. Parking violations—start September when quieter. Chief Walsh and Bill indicated that there are too many stickers and that several stickers are given to one family and with more units for housing being constructed, we need to look at this and revise stickers/permits.

Parking questions— Is there a time limit for resident parking? AKA, can someone park overnight/ for 24 hrs and in one spot?

Chief Walsh indicated that his officers suggest to folks that it is not ideal to park overnight and too date this has worked. PD moves them along with suggestion of other places to park overnight. No ticketing is given instead there is voluntary compliance. Bill agreed and noted that we must manage permits going forward. Brendan asked about Cable Beach and parking there— one family at end of road uses a spot regularly. Since that house doesn't have a driveway spot they use resident parking overnight there and have for many years and this is permitted in this case.

Water quality results—Pirates Cove elevated bacteria count 2x in a row, questions around Eel Pond outflow at Sawyers. Noted was the high rain levels. Continuing to monitor.

RTK request from Tyler McGill— plan to provide by end of September but Frank will simplify this and get him the information in an expedited fashion directly and Tyler and Bill discussed doing so. Tyler decided there is no need to do an official Right to Know.

Other Business:

Brendan brought up encroachment issue on Harbor Rd and Chief Walsh noted he would go look and assess.

Beach patrol is monitoring beaches 11 am -7 pm during weekends , animal control continues.

Acknowledgment provided that there is an increase in folks having a short fuse—some aggressive behavior exhibited, there was an assault of animal control officer. Beach patrol is present to minimize this.

Assessment of Lifeguards: they are doing a great job.

Questions raised about suggesting that Summer Sessions use Pirates or Cable but Chief Walsh noted it would create the same issue there as it has at Sawyers.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting will be August 18th, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Seana Zelazo