

## Rye Beach Committee

### Rye Beach Committee Minutes

August 18, 2021 7PM Town Hall

Members present: Frank Hwang, Mary-Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo, Brendan Carney, Mary Mitchell, Deirdre Larkin, Bill Epperson - Select Board  
Representative Assistance from Janice Ireland

Call to Order: Frank called the meeting to order @ 7:05pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comment** :Lori Carabajal, resident of 18 Tower Avenue, Rye, NH appeared at the meeting to discuss the issue at Cable Rd./Jenness Beach. She discussed the issue of a resident who has placed 8 chairs on the public beach in front of his/her property. The chairs have been there everyday for several months and it appears the chairs are placed to push their property beyond the mean hightide line into the public beach area. (photos were provided) Lori is concerned that this presents an issue that the public does not have access and the opportunity to set up for the beach in this area as it appears to be private property or taken space. Lori also stated that seed grass has been planted beyond this person's property and into the town beach. She has done a deed search of the beach to investigate the issue. Bill will bring up and present this issue at the next Select Board meeting and will also discuss with Attorney Donovan.

Approval of Minutes: All approved minutes.

Agenda:

Review survey and provide input: Frank suggested the survey be filled out as a committee.

#### **Survey answers:**

**1. Please indicate your affiliation with the town (optional):** Rye Beach Committee

**2. The following question is to evaluate how Rye's Master Plan is useful in your work. Check all that apply.** Yes, the master plan is relevant to our committee, useful-yes but may need more guidance for definition on "access for all" and maybe need more clearly defined definitions.

**3. What if any additional tools, forms and types of data, or other specific information would be useful in your work and service to the community? Select all that apply.** Additional tools- yes more data is helpful and should include beach and seacoast definitions and the vision statement is clear.

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**4. What methods of communication do you employ with the public to distribute vital information (for example, residents, businesses, property owners, visitors)?**

All listed methods of communication are all appropriate

**5. If these existing communication methods are not sufficient to perform your work, service or accomplish your mission, what changes would you recommend to improve communications to residents, businesses, property owners, renters and visitors?** More communication is needed to reach residence (Rye Magazine?) schools?

**6. When engaging with the public (e.g. residents, business owners, property owners, renters, visitors) and community stakeholder groups, what are the top 3-5 issues that come up repeatedly?** Top 3 issues: beach sticker/access permit parking, commercial activity, water quality/environmental

**7. What is your greatest challenge(s) to providing services to the town? Check all that apply.** Greatest challenges: public input, no budget, no interaction with the public engagement.

**8. Would increased community engagement and communication improve your level of service or response? If yes, please explain how in the comment box below.** Yes communication would help; possible ideas: Rye magazine add photos of beach clean up and educational activities, update news letter to include the beach committee email.

**9. Has climate change impacted your department, board, commission or committee or informed your work and town services? If yes, select all that apply.** Climate change - yes; impact: water quality, temp of water, coastal storms, invasive species, storm water runoff, fires, water sewer

**10. If yes to question #9, what is your greatest challenge with respect to being better prepared to implement climate change adaptation actions and be more resilient to climate change impacts?** Greatest challenge for climate change: Water quality

**11. Briefly describe successes you've implemented toward climate change preparedness, adaptation and community resilience.** N/A

**12. What area, topic or service would benefit most from increased funding?** Increased funding would help community interaction and parking issues.

Agenda 5-7 were discussed together.

Parking stickers:

- Discussion of parking stickers, some households have up to 8 stickers, homes that are in a trust have many more. Should there be a limit on how many permits are issued to each resident?
- The BOS will be creating a new Ad-Hoc Parking Committee/Beach Committee and a charter will be formed. The new committee will make new rules for acquiring beach

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stickers from the Town of Rye. Bill Eperson, Kevin Walsh and Amy will sit on the committee.

- Bill suggested someone from the Beach Committee also sit on this Ad-Hoc committee. Mary Mitchell volunteered and was approved to be a member of the committee.

Alternative transportation to the beach; bike racks, scooters:

- Bike racks- yes bike racks would be good to have at each beach access. How can this be funded and implemented? Deirdre will follow up on getting donations possibly from local sponsors such as Gus's Bike shop.
- Scooters are motorized and require a beach sticker but they could have an area designated for parking other than car parking.

Exploration of possible increased permit parking:

- Handicap parking spots are not just for residence, they are ADA compliant. No handicap parking available at Sawyers Beach. Should Sawyers and other beaches have better ramps to make them more wheelchair accessible?
- Sawyers Beach has a big gap/swell at the drainage area south of Jenness Beach. It is big and getting bigger. Bill wants to ask DES if this drainage area/gap can be buried.
- More discussion is needed for the alternative to lifeguard parking at Sawyers. 2 northern spots for lifeguard stand?
- Permit parking: **Suggestions:** Old Beach Rd. be limited to resident stickers. Big Rock Rd. parking has been taken away; should it be residence parking? The beach parking by Wentworth by the Sea Golf Course, should this be residence parking? What is our role as a committee? Mary-Ann suggested a possible exploration walk in the fall to walk these areas to see what spots have the most area available to increase residential parking needs. It was suggested that Denis and Kevin be included in this discussion.
- What will be the impact on beach parking with the new residential areas? The new Beach/Parking committee will have to make decisions for new growth.

Future planning on educational opportunities-

- Pack in/pack out school signage was successful. The committee would like to do this again next year but will need more funding. This was mainly funded by members of the beach committee. Can local sponsorship be found or a business that wants to partner with the committee? The committee needs to thank the school principals/teachers; acknowledgement and thanks should be added to the newsletter. Maryanne brought in the last of the school beach signs and the committee members will replace any signs that have blown away.
- Planning for next year's signs: Should there be a limit to the number of submissions? Having the signs a specific size for next year will make it easier, also signs for businesses should be vertical to save space.
- Beach clean up, school presentations? This would be a good idea but it is hard to get access for a school presentation due to Covid. Possible ideas are to partner with Summer Sessions for a beach clean up, they have good access to social media and could spread the word. Planning is needed for the beach clean up schedule and possible school presentation.

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### Commercial activities:

- Brendan suggested a yearly calendar to address each topic.
- The next meeting will be dedicated to commercial activities.

4 issues were suggested to spend time on for next month's meeting and to come up with a solid action plan:

1. Beach sticker/access (permit parking, bike rack) 2. Commercial activity. 3. Water quality/Environmental. 4. Educational Activities to the public/Boundaries for commercial activities.

### Other Business

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

The next meeting will be September 15th 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Mitchell