

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021- 7:00 pm – Town Hall

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

Chief Kevin Walsh was invited to the meeting for relevant discussions on beach usage

Call to Order

Frank called the meeting to order @ 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment -None

Frank read an email from a Rye resident re: irresponsible dog owners leaving dog waste bags on/near beaches, burying waste on beach or not picking up waste.

Members agreed to continue to look at different options. Recently, there has been an increase of dog waste left by trails, beaches and other areas in Rye. Generally, dog owners have been responsible in this area, but with more dogs in town and visitors to Rye, the Beach Committee will coordinate with other Rye Committees to consider solutions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting were approved

Frank asked members to refer the public to the official email for written comments and to include the official address on group communications ([beachcommittee@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:beachcommittee@town.rye.nh.us))

Frank requested that Tyler McGill (Summer Sessions) give his presentation to the Committee next. All members approved.

Mr. McGill addressed concerns, community activities, and engagement with the Rye Fire and Police Departments and the Beach Committee. His presentation included pictures of the beach and parking to illustrate surf areas and any noted concerns. Chief Walsh noted he meets regularly with Summer Sessions. Mr. McGill discussed the development of the summer camps, the employment of sixteen Rye residents during the season, boundaries and safety on the beach, and contributions/donations to local groups. Some examples are: Summer Sessions has donated funds to the Rye and Portsmouth PTAs, Rye Congregational Church, fundraising for land behind RJH, and offers equipment at a discount to Rye schools and the fire department. Summer Sessions has consistently worked with Big Brother & Big Sister, Road to Recovery, Wounded Warrior, Amputee Surf, the Chill and beach cleanups for their students and also with Surfrider.

Regarding the number of students in the camp: During Covid-19 restrictions in 2019, Summer Sessions did not run kids camps and reduced the number of other groups. In 2021, numbers were 15 participants per session. In 2022, as in pre-Covid years, the maximum number will be 35 participants per session with 3:1 camper to coach ratio.

Summer Sessions emphasizes parking and traffic rules to parents regarding drop off and pickup. The purpose of the van is for equipment and safety, in case of emergency.

Frank inquired if there were other options for the van. He suggested that the Fire and Police Departments, Summer Sessions and the Beach Committee review beach safety guidelines and work together to update guidelines/emergency plan for the safety of all beachgoers. Tyler McGill said Summer Sessions would be interested in discussing safety guidelines.

Bill Epperson reminded Tyler McGill that permission for beach usage is reviewed and approved/denied annually by the Rye Select Board. Summer Sessions has been approved regularly and any updates can be addressed on the annual application next spring.

Members thanked Tyler McGill for his presentation (session was recorded) and suggested he post the community activities on the Summer Sessions Website. The Committee also thanked Chief Walsh.

#### Budget Update

Frank noted the BC will have a budget in 2022 to cover the school poster activity, printing costs and other beach-related activities

#### Water Quality Update

Surfrider will extend water testing during the shoulder season. More details to be worked out with Rye.

Chief Walsh explained that the Fire Department posts notices and communication is sent to police and town hall.

#### Other Business

Brendan Carney to provide updated information on Climate Change and sea water levels at next or future meeting.

No other business

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

The next meeting will be December 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary-Ann Sullivan