

Rye Beach Committee Minutes Wednesday January 19, 2022 - 7:00 pm – Town Hall

Members present: Mary-Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo, Mary Mitchell, Bill Epperson-
Select Board Representative. Alternates: Anne Baker

Assistance from Janice Ireland

Call to Order

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

Greetings were extended to Frank for a speedy recovery from a snowboarding mishap.

Public Comment- No one was present. Seana noted Steve Borne was in the Zoom waiting room, and we invited him to join the discussion on Parsons Creek Watershed Water Quality Report.

Approval of Minutes – Meeting was cancelled on December 15, 2021. Updated minutes from November 19, 2021 were accepted.

Updates from Sub-Committees:

Beach Parking Permit Revisions Completed – Mary did a great job representing the Beach Committee. Bill noted feedback was mainly positive with some complaints.

Water Quality/Environment – Seana is pleased with Surfriders connection and shoulder season testing.

Educational Activities – Mary-Ann contacted RJH and ES school principals. The beach poster program will continue to be part of environmental/kindness activities. We received 58 posters for the first year of the program.

Dog Signs – Anne Baker sent BC members an example of a creative sign from another community re: dog waste. Everyone liked the sign. Anne wondered if the BC should contact other groups about the signs. Bill asked Anne to see if she could find out more information on cost and design from the other community. Bill said he would discuss the sign with the Rye DPW. The DPW is responsible for all official signs.

Mary added that some of the student posters included information on dog waste and were well done. Mary-Ann said the Beach Committee is not responsible for signs at the beach and, as we plan to continue with the poster program, we do not want to detract from the student work by asking other student groups. There are signs regarding the Rye Ordinance for dogs posted at the beach and removed in the shoulder season. With more information, the BC can make a recommendation to the Select Board.

Bill said a few barrels were placed near Jenness Beach to see if they could be used for dog waste, despite Rye's Carry In/Carry Out policy. Discussion to continue.

The Committee discussed the recent Parsons Creek Watershed Water Quality Report, prepared by FB Environmental Associates, Dover, NH, December 2021. We received the report only recently; therefore we did not have sufficient time to review the full report in advance. We asked Steve for any input at this time, as he understands the history of concerns and spoke at the BC meeting last June. Although Parsons Creek itself is not part of our charge, the output to the sea is of primary concern. Anne and Mary asked about failed septic systems. The current pump-out ordinance is every 3 -years with a few exceptions.

Bill said he would send information to the BC re: septic pump-out status and compliant and non-compliant systems in the Parsons Creek area. Detailed records are kept in the building inspector's office. Discussion to continue, along with updated information on sea level rise and climate change from Brendan.

Other Business – None. Discussion of signs was included with Sub-Committee reports.

The meeting adjourned @7:40 pm

The next meeting will be February 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Ann Sullivan