

Beach Committee Meeting Minutes July 25, 2018  
Called to order at 7:31 PM by Larry Rocha Chairman

Attendees: Larry Rocha, Keper Connell, Steve Hillman, Brad Fulkerson, Lori Carbajal, Selectperson Keri Roman, Police Chief Kevin Walsh, Fire Chief Mark Cotreau

DUNE GRASS – areas of 2186 Ocean Blvd owner is LeSaffre. Selectperson Roman stated she along with town administrator Michael Magnant had spoken with the owner and the owner feels there was grass originally in that space and has no intention of removing it. The town takes the position that this is public land in the area where the grass is planted. Selectperson Roman stated the homeowner (Mrs LaSaffre indicated she had no problem with people walking through the area).

Police Chief Walsh stated he has observed beachgoers placing chairs and sitting in the grass planting area.

23 F Street owner is Devino did obtain a permit from NH DES though there was no grass observed by the town before the planting. Aerial Photos provided by NH DES at site walk (post meeting) provided to show some grass was in the area but not the entire length. The grass was sparse.

Steve Hillman stated the grass regardless of permit or not is impeding the public from using the public space and the public has used that space ongoing for decades. Other members, Keper Connell and Larry Rocha felt it was a reach for the homeowners to plant what is obviously an attempt to not have beachgoers sit in those areas.

Keri Roman felt it is the state that needs to deal with the issues and not the town.

PARKING BOXES – Selectperson Roman would like the committee to work on line items as for recommendations regarding beach area parking to encompass a plan for the neighborhoods in area of the beach. Discussion from Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal and Steve Hillman stated the current situation would be cured with “tow signs throughout town as well as more designated Resident Permit Parking areas especially in the area of lower Perkins Road and Cable Road. An increase in fines especially at the Permit Only areas is a must because the current fine of \$50.00 is not a deterrent for someone that can’t find a close parking area regardless if the fine goes to \$75.00 after four days as Chief Walsh stated. Brad Fulkerson stated that on busy weekends his own family has had to park a mile away because areas such as Sawyers Beach has cars parked there all day not having a permit to do so and those cars are taking up space that Rye Residents have paid extra in order to park there. Lori Carbajal stated she had the same fate on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated many town residents she’s spoken to, seldom go to the beach on the weekends because the parking is impossible even with a permit. She stated she doubted anyone moved here to enjoy Rye in February.

Selectperson Roman would look into cost increases for fines. Larry Rocha stated the sign for fines at Sawyers which is no longer there had fines as \$100.00 without a permit and wanted to know why that was not be done now.

Sanders Poynt – Permanent Sign is being dealt with between the two owners that litigated.

Beach Closures - NH DES Steve Hillman, Keper Connell and Brad Fulkerson raised concerns that there were 3 beach closures due to high levels of fecal bacteria within a 5 mile radius. Two closures being in North Hampton and one closure at Cable Beach in Rye during a time where there was little appreciable

rainfall. Keper Connell stated with more use of the beaches this is compounding the problem of fecal bacteria. He wanted to know who is conducting the testing and frequency and access to all reports. Asked by member's as to when town sewer was added to Jenness Precinct which response was in the 1990's. If septic is not an issue in Jenness then where is the bacteria coming from. Lori Carbajal posed an inquiry to the group that campers are parked along Route 1A all day and retire from that location directly to the Wal-Mart parking lot not to a camp ground and wanted to know where they empty their holding tanks. Can we presume they are depositing along the roadway when leaving town. Chief Walsh stated that in the past there has been an issue with this problem and has not heard of it happening as of late.

**FINES FOR ACHOHOL** – The town is looking at raising the fine for drinking on the beach open containers.

Selectperson Roman would like the beach committee to put together a priorities list for issues like parking and work on the list for purposes of remedy and warrant articles at the next beach committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 PM