

TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: *Chair Frank Hwang, Vice-Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Member Seana Zelazo, Alternate Anne Baker and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson*

I. Call to Order

Chair Hwang called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes

- February 23, 2022

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022. Seconded by Frank Hwang. All in favor.

IV. Sub-committee updated/questions/comments

No updates or questions.

V. Beach Cleanups

Vice-Chair Sullivan spoke in regards to the Blue Ocean Society which is an organization that does beach cleanups along the Seacoast. With respect to liability issues, Blue Ocean Society speaks about marine debris and safety issues, as someone could be injured during beach cleanup. Blue Ocean Society will bring their own laborers and supplies. Vice-Chair Sullivan's concern was that everything is put into one bin and thrown away. She was curious as to whether anything, such as cans or glass, could be recycled. She spoke with the Recycling Education Committee and the staff at the Recycling Center about recycling. It can be done if the items are clean. If it's a can that is so worn that it's contaminated itself, it would be making things worse. The good news is that these items are not staying in the ocean. Vice-Chair Sullivan noted that she is looking at off season dates so they can get to Sawyer's Beach.

The Committee agreed that they like picking beaches that are not typically on the radar.

There was some discussion about having people or organizations in town sponsoring a beach. Vice-Chair Sullivan noted that Blue Ocean's website lists the beaches and the individuals who

have adopted them. She also noted that the Girl Scouts of New Hampshire and Vermont do a major cleanup in September. She has a contact with the schools for the fifth-grade that she will reach out to and let them know what they are doing.

The Committee reviewed the proposed dates of cleanup planned by Vice-Chair Sullivan. The first two days of cleanup by Blue Ocean Society will start on April 1st and 2nd at Sawyer's Beach from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Sullivan will inform Police Chief Walsh of the dates and will ask Selectmen's Secretary Janice Ireland to post the dates on the Town's website. Selectman Epperson agreed to announce the date at the next Select Board Meeting.

VI. School Posters Next Steps

There was some discussion about the school posters. It was agreed to continue with the posters and involve more students in the school. It was noted that there are funds in the budget for poster supplies. Vice-Chair Sullivan will follow up with the school principal in regards to supplies.

VII. Water Results, Add Testing Spot, Process (aka we have budget to add a site next steps)

Chair Hwang noted that Surf Rider has reached out to him about adding another testing spot, which was included in this year's budget. He asked the Committee if there are any questions or comments in regards to the Parson's Creek Watershed testing.

Selectman Epperson commented that once they find out specifically where the pollution is coming from and what it is, they will have a better handle on what to do. He noted that he was told that pods of seals could be causing part of the issue.

Chair Hwang reiterated that they have budgeted for another testing spot that the town will support during the shoulder season. During the summer, the State does testing at most of the beaches, but they are not doing the shoulder season. Last year, Surf Rider, working with U.N.H., identified certain spots that they would carry over into shoulder season, so there would be year-long data points for the beaches and water samples over time. A spike in the summer can't be quantified that it was something that just happened in August or is a year-long increase.

The Committee had a discussion about where they should add another testing spot. Current testing spots include the wall, North Hampton Beach, Pirates Cove (entry point), and Jenness Beach. Those areas are tested from Columbus Day to Memorial Day. Additional areas mentioned for testing were Sawyer's, Eel Pond outflow point or an area closer to the Beach Club, and Pirate's Cove near Concord Point. It was agreed that the testing should be at some point at Sawyer's. Chair Hwang will follow up with Surf Riders to get their thoughts on the best location.

VIII. Renomination of Frank and Brendan

Motion by Bill Epperson to renominate Frank Hwang and Brendan Carney to the Beach Committee. Seconded by Anne Baker. All in favor.

Letters of recommendation will be sent to the Select Board by Vice-Chair Sullivan for Frank Hwang and Chair Hwang for Brendan Carney.

IX. Other Business

- There was discussion in regards to possible meeting days going forward, as Member Carney is not able to meet on Wednesdays at this time. It was agreed that the first or third Monday of the month would work for the members. Chair Hwang will follow up with the Selectmen's Secretary to confirm that the Beach Committee meetings would not conflict with other town committee/board meetings.
- Selectman Epperson noted that Public Works has a sign budget, if there is something that the Beach Committee needs to have made. The Public Works Director was going to make sure the existing signs are refreshed because they're getting worn.

Chair Hwang pointed out that there has been feedback from people that there are too many signs. He asked if the signs should be consolidated. He's not sure if people will actually read the signs if they are consolidated. If there is going to be a sign refresh, there may be an efficient way to consolidate the signs, so more don't have to be added.

Selectman Epperson agreed to follow up with the Public Works Director.

- Vice-Chair Sullivan asked if the dog waste barrels will continue.

Selectman Epperson noted that there was some controversy about those because the beaches are carry in/carry out. People were leaving dog waste in the garbage cans. Now, there are 55-gallons drums used for the dog waste, which are getting too heavy. Public Works is going to take them down to a smaller size so they can be emptied more frequently. The dog waste barrels will continue. There are signs on the drums that say they're for dog waste only. He also noted that people were leaving household trash. The Public Works Director cut a hole in a lid so people can't put trash in the barrels.

There was some discussion about getting another container for an area closer to Sawyer's Beach.

Adjournment

Motion by Frank Hwang to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger