

TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: Acting Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Seana Zelazo, Anne Baker and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2022

Motion by Mary Connolly-Mitchell to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

IV. Updates from each sub-committee

Member Mitchell noted that she saw an email chain from Police Chief Walsh and Deputy Town Clerk Amy Thibodeau in regards to the beach stickers. They said that no one has really had any issues with the two-sticker limit. There has actually been a decrease in sales from this same timeframe last year.

The Committee agreed it's still early and sales may increase closer to Memorial Day.

Acting Chair Sullivan gave a quick update on the recent beach cleanup with Blue Ocean Society. The focus was on the Philbrick's Beach area. Some cans and bottles that were picked up were able to be recycled at the Transfer Station, as it was recent debris and was not too contaminated. Most items were too contaminated to be recycled. Additional beach cleanups in Rye have been scheduled with Blue Ocean Society, during the shoulder season.

V. Schedule change to a Monday or Tuesday each month

The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the meeting days to the third Monday of the month. This would mean that the next meeting date would be May 16th. The Committee agreed that the Monday change would work. They also agreed to an earlier start time of 6:00p.m.

Acting Chair Sullivan will follow up with the other committee members in regards to the day and time change to see if it works with their schedules.

VI. Schools, kids sign program

It has been confirmed by the art teacher at the middle school that the students will be participating in the sign program. The principal of the school has also approved the program. The Committee saw amazing work by the fourth graders last year. They look forward to seeing what comes in from the students for this year.

Acting Chair Sullivan noted that she told them to keep the Committee informed if they become limited on supplies. At this time, the school has said they are fine and have what they need.

VII. Signs

Selectman Epperson reported that DPW has not put up all the signs yet for the season. The Public Works Director is taking an inventory of where all the signs were posted last year to see if there is a way to get more visibility for the signs; specifically, the dog and beach pick up signs.

VIII. Commercial Beach Permits – Next Steps

Selectman Epperson noted that commercial beach permitting is going to be discussed at the Select Board's next meeting on April 25th. Four commercial applications for beach permits will be before the Board at that meeting. The applicants will present what they would like to do. The Select Board usually responds with what they would like to see and both parties come to a consensus for the permit. Anyone wanting to obtain a commercial beach permit must fill out an application and present their plan to the Select Board every year.

Selectman Epperson pointed out that the Seacoast Science Center is now going to have a food truck on the premises. Police Chief Walsh is concerned about trash on the beaches. This will also be discussed at the Select Board's next meeting.

IX. Date for check-in with Police Chief and Fire Chief at beach (walk)

Acting Chair Sullivan pointed out that Frank Hwang brought up the idea about having a safety walk on the beach, so the Committee can be aware of the issues.

The Committee agreed to have Member Hwang work on some dates and times with Police Chief Walsh and Fire Chief Cotreau.

X. Increased summer traffic – Borders opening, Airbnb's full, etc.

The Committee had a brief discussion about the increase in the traffic, as it's getting closer to the summer season.

Selectman Epperson noted that the Planning Board is struggling with what to do about short-term rentals. There are a lot of ideas around the country to try to control Airbnb (short-term) rentals by having required stay times that are longer; such as, one week, two weeks or thirty days. There are a lot of Airbnb's in Rye and many rent for a weekend or just a few days. He pointed out that the Town has a population of 5,400 people and it can easily grow to 10,000 people in the summertime.

XI. Confirmed with Rye Magazine that we can have a submission for next issue – focus will be on Carry In and Carry Out

Members who have suggestions for the article for the Rye Magazine should send their comments to Frank Hwang.

XII. Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Seconded by Seana Zelazo. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger