

TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE

Monday, June 20, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: *Chair Frank Hwang, Vice-Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Seana Zelazo, Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Anne Baker and Deirdre Larkin*

I. Call to Order

Chair Hwang called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and let the pledge of allegiance.

II. Public Comment

Giles Ham, 10 Mountain View Terrace, spoke to the Committee about the possibility of conducting a parking study at the beach. His background is in transportation engineering and he has done many studies over the years. He suggested focusing on the resident permit parking covering a couple of busy days during the summer. The idea is to see what the demand is for parking by observing the accumulation over the course of the day to see the impact of parking at the beaches. He would do this with volunteers from the community. Mr. Ham discussed ways in which the study could be conducted.

The Committee agreed this would be a great idea. There was some discussion about how the traffic and demand for parking has increased over the last ten to fifteen years.

Chair Hwang noted that Mr. Ham's email regarding a parking study was forwarded to the Select Board and Police Chief Walsh. He commented that if the study is at no cost and shows impact over time, with the borders now being open and the increase in developments in the community, it's an appropriate time for the parking to be evaluated.

Mr. Ham pointed out that the study is not to make recommendations on what to do, as that would be up to the town's decision makers. It's just to provide data that they might not know, in order to help in making some decisions. He noted that he could meet with the Select Board and the Police Chief, as they may have a lot of questions. However, it's certainly useful information for the Select Board to have.

The Committee supports the parking study, as it will be a volunteer service with no budget and just involves the collection of data without recommendations.

III. Approval of Minutes

- **May 16, 2022**

**Motion by Mary-Ann Sullivan to approve the minutes of May 16, 2022 as presented.
Seconded by Seana Zelazo. All in favor.**

IV. Signage/Posters Project Update

The Committee discussed the signage/posters project. The posters are ready to be put out and others are already on stakes. They reviewed the list of beach access points that will be posted and where the stakes/signs should be located. Posters will also be posted at a few businesses in the community. The Committee has a list of businesses to contact.

V. Focus for Subcommittees from 4 Committees to 2 Committees

Chair Hwang spoke to the Committee in regards to cutting the subcommittees down to two committees. The Committee would pick two specific topics to work on and focus on those. Once the work of one subcommittee is coming to a close, they could pick up another item to focus on. He reminded everyone that the Committee's charter is to bring recommendations to the Select Board. He pointed out there are themes that keep coming back up; such as, water quality, trash carry in/carry out, and dog waste.

There was discussion about the importance of fecal matter testing at Parson's Creek and other areas near the beach, which has been covered through state grants in the past.

VI. Trash Cans/Dog Waste POV

Chair Hwang noted that the Committee has been asked for their point of view in regards to trash cans, dog waste and signage. He was told that there was a point of view that has been broadcast to the Select Board that was said to represent the Beach Committee.

Member Connolly-Mitchell commented that the Committee asked why there couldn't be more trash cans, as they were overflowing in the early spring. She suggested that the trash cans should be picked up more often.

Chair Hwang pointed out that the concerns about trash pickup at Cable was the cost for an outside contractor for the pickup, as it is not DPW. Also, the dog waste system works great; however, there are now complaints that people are leaving household trash next to the barrels. One of his questions to the Select Board was what happens to people who do this? Are they fined? He noted that it was said to the Select Board that the Beach Committee was behind carry-in/carry-out. He would like the Committee to clarify their position.

It was agreed that the Committee should craft a position.

Vice-Chair Sullivan commented that the Beach Committee was supportive of carry-in/carry-out. As she recalls, at the last meeting, Member Connolly-Mitchell was talking about the number of people on the beach with dogs. The Committee was supportive of the trash cans and the dog waste barrels with signage stating it's for "beach only" and there will be a fine.

Member Connolly-Mitchell spoke about whether carry-in/carry-out is a reality.

Chair Hwang noted that some of the trash next to the dog barrels may be from rental properties, which has increased. If people are leaving trash at the beach, they need to find out why, as the trash will end up back on the beach. He also noted that there is a concern with manpower in picking up the trash.

There was some discussion about having trash cans at the beach year-round versus during the summer months only. They also questioned whether the proceeds from the beach parking stickers could be used towards trash pickup, so it would not affect the general budget. It was noted by Chair Hwang that those funds cover fire services and lifeguards; however, it's money that was allocated towards the beach. This may be something for the town to consider, along with whether there should be trash cans year-round.

The Committee agreed that signage would be acceptable. They will discuss this again at their next meeting.

VII. Sawyers North End Berm

Chair Hwang noted that the berm was pushed up to restructure the seawall, which created more space for parking; however, it also blocked entry. He has heard that things are better and has not heard any other complaints recently.

VIII. Parking

- **Review of Parking for Beach for Carriage House**

Chair Hwang noted that Member Carney was concerned about commercial parking and who's allowed to charge for parking. They will address this at the next meeting, as Member Carney is not present.

- **Parking Data Collection**
Addressed earlier in the meeting.

IX. Beach Walking – Timing

Chair Hwang noted that committee members are welcome to schedule a site walk with Fire Chief Cotreau, Police Chief Walsh and Lt. MacGlashing if they would like. It was intended that a beach walk would be done both pre-season and post-season; however, the time has gotten away from him this year for scheduling the walk.

X. Other Business

Member Larkin spoke about interest in focusing on climate change. The Conservation Commission has been doing a lot with this topic. She pointed out that the FEMA flood maps were updated and effective as of January 29, 2020. The Conservation Commission is doing a lot of public education around this topic. The Beach Committee may be able to coordinate efforts with them.

Chair Hwang reported that he will be stepping down from his position as chair of the Beach Committee, due to other personal priorities. He would still like to help the Committee in any way that he can and will be in support of their work.

The members thanked Chair Hwang for his service and leadership on the Committee.

Adjournment

Motion by Deirdre Larkin to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Seconded by Mary Connolly-Mitchell. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger