

**Rye Beach Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, September 21, 2022  
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Members present: Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Seana Zelazo, Selectman Bill Epperson, and Anne Baker***

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Public Comment**

*None*

**3. Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2022**

**Motion by Mary Connolly-Mitchell to approve the minutes of July 18, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Seana Zelazo. All in favor.**

**4. Recommendation & vote to Fund Surfrider Shoulder Season Testing @ Sawyers**

- a.** Mid-Sept. – Dec. 2022 @ 2x per month = \$240.00

**All voted in favor to allot \$240 for shoulder season testing for 2022.**

- b.** Jan., Feb., March, April, May, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., 2023 = \$500.00/\$540.00

The Committee agreed to ask for up to \$600 for the testing for 2023.

**All voted in favor to request up to \$600 for the shoulder season testing in 2023.**

**5. Budget Items and Vote for 2022-2023**

- a.** Beach Committee Line Items

Chair Sullivan submitted a copy of the budget for 2022 to review year to date expenditures. There was some discussion about possible upcoming expenses for the remainder of the year. Chair Sullivan noted that the Blue Ocean Society has been really good to work with and they will come for the October 1<sup>st</sup> beach cleanup. She asked the Committee if there would be any objection to purchasing gloves or something that they could use, if there is any money left in the 2022 budget.

Selectman Epperson suggested making a donation and letting them use the money for what they need.

**All voted in favor to make a donation or buy some supplies for Blue Ocean Society.**

**b. Recommendations to Select Board – Bike Racks & Dog Waste Containers**

The Committee discussed items to recommend to the Select Board that be added to the 2023 Beach Committee Budget. It was agreed that dog waste containers should be located at all beach access points; Pirates Cove, Concord Point, Cable, Foss (2), Sawyers, F Street and E Street.

**All voted in favor of recommending the dog waste containers to the Select Board at the access points as discussed.**

The Committee discussed whether there are areas near the beach access points where bike racks could be located. It was noted that some access points have space limitations so it might not be possible at all beaches.

**All voted in favor of recommending bike racks where possible.**

**6. Update on Book & Comments – Seana Zelazo**

Member Zelazo spoke about her book being released on September 22<sup>nd</sup> titled ‘The Way of Inanna’, a Heroine’s Guide to Living Unapologetically. She will be stepping down from the Committee to concentrate on promoting her book.

The Committee congratulated Seana on her work. She will be missed on the Committee.

**7. Recommendations & Vote on open positions for candidates who have applied**

**a. Brief comments by any candidates present**

**Cybele Grier** spoke to the Committee about her background and interest in being a member of the Beach Committee. She worked thirty-six years in the IT industry. She retired last year from a high-tech company as an overseer of a large global team. She is now spending time giving back to the community through volunteer opportunities and guest speaking at Girlstart, which is a national non-profit that empowers girls in underserved communities to become interested in STEM. As she has a couple of degrees in engineering, it has been a thrill for her to speak with these girls and open their minds to these opportunities. She and her husband have lived in Rye for five years and hope to live in the community for many more years. One of her reasons for joining the Committee is because of the bacteria she has seen on the beach. She is interested in helping to find the source and executing a plan to address the problem.

Dr. Joan Zofnass introduced herself to the Committee. She is a practicing psychologist who is originally from Boston. She spent forty plus years in New York City as a member of the faculty

at one of the big hospitals as a non-MD teacher of medical students in psychiatry. She is very involved in sustainability. She has been involved in a program her brother set up at Harvard to come up with a rating system for building sustainable infrastructure; roads, highways, tunnels, etc. The rating system is now being used around the world. She is also very involved with nature and is concerned about sea-life being destroyed by trash on the beaches.

**b. Open Member Position**

**All were in favor of recommending Joan Zofnass to the Select Board for the open member position.**

**c. Open Alternate Position**

**All were in favor of recommending Cybele Grier to the Select Board for the alternate position.**

**8. Division of Responsibilities 2022-2023**

**IN PROGRESS**

**a. Beach Cleanup Oct. 1 @ Pirates Cove – on Blue Ocean Calendar PR on 3 Sites**

Chair Sullivan noted that the beach cleanup on October 1<sup>st</sup> has been posted on Rye's Facebook page and on the Town's website. It has also been posted on Next Door, Community Forum and other places. Seacoast Science Center is holding an event that day called BioBlitz, so it's nice that it coincides with that event. Blue Ocean Society will provide the bags for volunteers and people are welcome to bring their own gloves to use.

**DIVED & CHOOSE – FEEDBACK by Oct. 19, 2022 Meeting**

**b. April 1<sup>st</sup> 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beach Cleanup @ 2-3 beaches**

If Rye organizes cleanup, do we need a waiver?

Sample form handout

- Beach cleanup during Rye 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- Possibility of cleaning four beaches – 4 for 400
- Event can be added to the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendar
- Waiver question will be run by town counsel
- Cybele and Joan agreed to help with organizing the beach cleanup day

**c. School Posters – Design of Stickers (note to include 400<sup>th</sup>)**

- Rye Junior High and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- Stickers to commemorate Rye 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – should have continuity with the 400<sup>th</sup> logo
- Have enough stickers to give some to students
- Anne will work on the stickers

**d. School Posters – Connection with RJH & ES, lamination, DPW, Placement**

- Mary-Ann will continue to work with the schools

- Mary will also help with this project
- e. Beach Access, including handicap access & parking
  - Mary will continue to work on this project
  - All committee members to help
  - Beginning of season committee will address anything that might be blocking the access points

## 9. Other Business

Member Connolly-Mitchell noted that she, Selectman Epperson, Chief Walsh, and Amy Thibodeau are meeting to talk about the challenges of the beach permit process. The beach parking was changed to be two stickers per household. When people came to get their stickers this year, there was some confusion as to what is a household. For instance, in the case of a duplex, there are two separate addresses. The Town Clerk's Office only wanted to give two stickers for the one house.

Selectman Epperson commented if there are two addresses, it should be two per address. He explained the reason why this was changed is because during Covid, there were over 3,000 beach stickers issued for 132 parking spaces. There were people who were getting stickers for people who don't even live in Rye. The process was changed to two per household, which worked eighty-five percent of the time. There was some pushback from a few people. It was agreed that there would be review of the complaints in October and the process would be refined, if necessary.

Member Connolly-Mitchell commented there was another situation where someone was handicap or didn't have a car.

Selectman Epperson stated that if someone has a handicap plate/placard on their car, regardless of the state, they can park in a handicap spot at the beach without a permit, which is the law.

Committee members who have heard of any issues should let Bill and Mary know before their meeting with Chief Walsh.

- After the meeting in October, the monthly meetings will go back to the third Monday of the month. All voted in favor of starting the meetings on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

## Adjournment

**Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Seconded by Seana Zelazo. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana Ledger