

TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Commission Present: *Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Cybele Grier, Anne Baker, Joan Zofnass, and Selectman Bill Epperson*

1. Call to Order

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes - November 21, 2022

The following correction was noted:

- Under approval of minutes the motion should read: **Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the minutes of October 19, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Joan Zofnass. All in favor.**
- Page 1, number 5 should read: **The Committee reviewed the beach poster project in cooperation with Rye Elementary and Junior High Students. Member Anne Baker designed the sticker for the 2023 sticker program.**

All were in favor of the amendments to the minutes.

Mary-Ann Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2022 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

3. Student Posters

The Committee reviewed the printed stickers designed by Member Baker for the student posters. Every student who is involved in the posters will be getting a sticker. The stickers have already been delivered to the 4th grade at the elementary school and the junior high. The Committee agreed the stickers look great and thanked Member Baker for her work.

4. 4 for 400 Beach Cleanup Plans

Member Grier reported that the four beach cleanup dates have been confirmed with the Blue Ocean Society. The dates are scheduled during the month of April, which is the fourth month of the year. She also reported that \$150 was approved by the Rye400 Committee from their budget for this event. There was some discussion at the previous Beach Committee Meeting to possibly have a giveaway. Names would be collected from the people who attend the beach cleaning days with a name being pulled on the last day for a gift certificate of \$150 for some place in Rye.

Member Grier suggested that they could also think about printing stickers to pass out to all volunteers with the difference in the \$150 being used for the gift certificate.

There was some discussion about a possible design for the sticker. Member Grier agreed to speak with Rye400 Committee Chair Andy Stecher about using the Rye400 logo. It was the consensus of the Committee to spend \$100 for the gift certificate and \$50 for the stickers. The Committee liked the idea of a Common Roots gift certificate.

Mary-Ann Sullivan made a motion to take the donation from the Rye400 with \$100 being spent for a gift certificate from Common Roots and \$50 being spent for smaller stickers, which will be used as handouts. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

5. Beach Parking Permit Update

Selectman Epperson explained that this past season the Town was issuing two beach parking permits per property with a third sticker for a scooter or motorcycle. It was decided to open it up to three permits for each qualifying property for \$30 each, which is a \$5 increase to cover the cost of the stickers, with a third permit is available for another \$5. The Beach Parking Permit Policy has been rewritten. Each property parcel is entitled to three stickers. The property parcel and property owner are determined by the tax bill. If the property is owned under a trust, there will still be three beach parking permits issued. In the past, the problem has been that houses in Rye in a trust have received up to twelve parking permits.

Selectman Epperson noted there are only one hundred thirty-two resident parking spots and the Town is not going to get anymore. Commercial vehicles will not be allowed, unless it's been approved by the Select Board. Nonprofits will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis; such as, the Seacoast Science Center, and the Learning Center. Parking will not be allowed between midnight and sunrise. Resident beach parking is exclusively for access to the beach during the designated times. Parking spaces are not intended to be auxiliary spaces for beachfront property owners and shall not be used as such. The new Beach Parking Permit Policy will be before the Select Board for approval at their next meeting. If the policy is approved, it will become effective starting February 15th.

6. Bike Racks

Selectman Epperson noted the he and DPW Director Jason Rucker reviewed areas to locate the bike racks. The only locations that were not in the State of N.H. right-of-way was Wallis and Cable. If the bike racks are successful this summer, the NH DOT can be approached to see if they will allow temporary racks during the summer for twelve weeks.

7. Dog Waste Disposal Containers

Selectman Epperson noted that the Select Board will be discussing the issue of the dog waste containers at the next Select Board meeting. At this time, the Town is carry-in and carry-out and

that policy has not changed. The containers were accommodated this year to see if it was going to work or not. He confirmed that it's going to be done again at Cable and Wallis. If the Select Board is convinced it's needed in other places, they will go to the more elaborate dog waste stations and determine who will be handling the maintenance. Selectman Epperson pointed out that Rye's dog/beach accommodation is significantly more liberal than any other town. There is a movement afoot that says there should not be dogs on the beach. He also pointed out there are some people who abuse this privilege, as there will always be. However, he visits the beach often in the summer and sees very few people abusing it.

8. Parking Survey

Selectman Epperson confirmed that he reached out to Mr. Ham but has not yet heard back from him. He will speak with him about what he wants to do and work out the details.

Member Baker pointed out that specifically, Mr. Ham only wants to collect data. There is no plan being proposed.

Chair Sullivan noted there will be no cost to the Town and he has an amazing background.

9. Parsons Creek Watershed Testing Data

Selectman Epperson noted the Parsons Creek Data is now on the Town's website. This is the final report from FB Environmental. The results from the testing that was done through a grant from last summer will be available later this year.

Chair Sullivan pointed out that NH Chapter of Surfrider posts the results from Jenness, North Beach, North Hampton State Beach, and Sawyers on their website. They've all been low bacteria, as levels are now going down.

10. Shark Monitors

Selectman Epperson reported that the shark buoys were placed on July 7th and were removed on November 28th. The data indicated that there were over one thousand detections of fifteen to twenty animals. The receivers will detect any tagged animal; such as, seals, herring, sharks, etc. Just because there are many detections, doesn't mean there are many sharks. It does mean the receivers are working properly though. Initial data was sent to the Atlantic White Shark Observatory to be compared to the shark data of four hundred tagged Great White Sharks. It was detected that no sharks were near Sawyer's Beach, Cable Beach, nor Wallis Sands Beach. There was one shark detection at Foss Beach that was just passing through the waters. The shark detectors will be put on the buoys and activated again in June.

- Next Meeting, Wednesday, February 22nd, 5:30 p.m.

6:21 p.m., Mary Connolly-Mitchell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Joan Zofnass. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger