

## Rye Beach Committee Meeting Minutes August 29, 2017

### Members in Attendance:

Larry Rocha, Keper Connell, Brad Fulkerson, Steven Hillman, Lori Carbajal  
Police Chief Kevin Walsh, Lt. Jacob MacGlashing Rye FD

### Meeting Called to Order by Larry Rocha 6:33 PM

G Street – In discussion of committee members Larry Rocha, Steve Hillman and Lori Carbajal stated this street is a beach access point though it is deemed a private way to residents living on G Street. Steven Hillman, Larry Rocha and Lori Carbajal did independent site walks at that location and determined there was no sign posted showing “beach access way” as did other areas such as E Street, Sunset Path and Old Beach Way.

Chief Walsh stated that a court decision was reached between the town and the residents living on G Street that it would be accessible to pedestrian traffic though no vehicles allowed and, no signage could be posted as a result of that court ordered agreement. Lori Carbajal questioned why a beach access sign could not be posted since the areas along Ocean Blvd., from the former A through D streets no longer provide beach access due to residents in those areas east of Ocean Blvd privatizing what was once a deeded access way, along E – G Streets all being part of the Myrica-By-The-Sea plan by which the plan allows for full access to the beaches and ocean to residents living west of Ocean Blvd within that plan. The “plan” recorded on her property deed as well as all homes within the Jenness Beach Precinct, all share that access ability and it is not up to a few residents to decide otherwise to make it private. Chief Walsh advised it was ordered by the court.

It was stated by Steve Hillman, Larry Rocha and Lori Carbajal that a sign was posted on a utility pole at the entrance to G Street “Private Way – No Vehicles, No Wagons, No Wheels” Committee members felt the sign was meant to keep people out and was not a legally posted sign being on the utility pole. Chief Walsh stated he would take care of the matter.

Sanders Poynt – Discussion that agreement was reached some time ago and the deadline per court order for Wentworth Country Club to restore area back to public beach access is September 19, 2017.

F Street – It was noted that a site walk was being conducted at the area of F Street ( a private way) open to pedestrian beach access, and Ocean Blvd., Route 1A issues regarding the line-of-site for traffic exiting F Street onto Ocean Blvd, Route 1A. During a site walk, Lori Carbajal and Larry Rocha noted an SUV parked illegally beyond the parking zone. The car had been ticketed however while the car remained there it made it difficult for cars exiting F Street having to nose out into the lane of traffic and bicyclists travelling north were forced to move to the center of the travel lane to avoid the vehicles mirrors of parked cars and avoid the encroachment of vehicles exiting F Street onto Ocean Blvd. It seems there has been some encroachment into the public way by homeowners planting grass which provides less of a shoulder for cars to park closer to the edge of the shoulder and away from the roadway.

Bike Racks – Steve Hillman has been in conversation with the owner of Gus' Bike Shop to provide bike racks at various areas of the beach so more people can get to the beach without their cars and have a place to lock their bikes. The racks would be on loan.

Beach Front Owners – Still some contention with some owners drinking on the sand in front of their homes and claiming ownership of what appears to be the public town beach and open for debate by both parties. There is no real defining point for “high water mark” and all of the homes vary since the point of “high water mark” would need to be determined over a 19 year period of time by monitoring this location which is ever changing.

Keper Connell would like to discuss a warrant article for management by Rye Recreation Dept to budget for beach costs for development over the next few years. Chief Walsh stated currently those responsibilities and guidance are solely with the police department and beach oversight with fire and police.

Current year issues with permittees – Chief Walsh stated he has had conversations with the owners of Summer Sessions Surf Shop with regard to

problems he has observed, as well as complaints with parking at Sawyers Beach where Summer Sessions runs a surf camp at that location. Numerous issues with cars parked on the west Side of Route 1A with small children crossing with their surfboards to the beach and barely able to handle the board while getting across the busy state highway. Chief Walsh stated, this has created an extremely hazardous situation not only with cars parked at Eel Pond West of Route 1A highway but also parents that are dropping off campers that are making a U-turns causing oncoming traffic to stop quickly. Chief Walsh stated, this is unsafe and illegal, and these cars will be ticketed. He also stated that as a result, his duty patrolmen have to be at that location to assure these illegal parking and turning practices are not occurring it makes it difficult for them to be at other locations in Rye while this is happening four times daily and is unacceptable. Chief Walsh stated he will be drafting a letter to the owners of Summer Sessions to come up with a plan for the 2018 permit season which provides parking for its' customers. As a business the business must provide parking for their customers. The plan must be implemented far in advance of the new permit request.

Firewood on the beach – Larry Rocha indicated that on his many morning walks along Sawyers Beach he is finding lots of burnt fire wood being left behind by people the night before. Lori Carbajal indicated she has noticed at the overlooks south of Odiorne where there is burnt wood as well. Chief Walsh stated the fire department is checking and they do check that the permit holder is present for the duration of the bon-fire. He will also follow up with the fire department regarding these issues.

Meeting Adjourned by Larry Rocha and seconded by Steven Hillman 7:50 PM