

## **TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE**

**Monday, April 17, 2023**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Rye Town Hall**

**Committee Present:** *Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Anne Robert Baker, Joan Zofnass, and Selectmen's Rep Tom King*

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Committee welcomed Tom King as the new select board representative to the Beach Committee.

### **2. Public Comment**

*None*

### **3. Introduction of Potential Alternate**

Bettina Caminati joined the meeting to observe the work of the Beach Committee, as she has an interest in becoming an alternate member. Ms. Caminati's family has lived in Rye for many years and she is a long-time resident. She was the director of human resources at the McLane Law Firm in Manchester for twenty-three years. She retired in 2011 and is looking for something to become involved with in the Town.

Chair Sullivan explained that the open alternate position has been listed for over thirty days. A letter of interest in joining the Committee would be sent from the person interested in joining to the Select Board. The Committee would send a recommendation letter to the Select Board for the appointment.

### **4. 4 for 400 Beach Cleanups – 2 completed – Comments**

Chair Sullivan reported that the Beach Committee, in conjunction with Blue Ocean Society and the Rye400 Committee, has held two of the scheduled beach cleanups. The cleanups were done as a way to celebrate Rye400. The cleanups were held at Foss Beach and Pirates Cove. The events were extremely successful with a great turnout of volunteers. Two additional beach cleanups are scheduled for the month of April.

- Jenness Beach: April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., enter at the Cable entrance
- Sawyers Beach: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

**Names of volunteers for the beach cleanups will be entered into a drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate from Common Roots. The name will be drawn at the end of all beach cleanups.**

## **5. FYI – Potential RJH Marine Debris Cleaning Station**

Chair Sullivan noted that she spoke with Kim Piela from the Education Foundation. Ms. Piela stated that one of the junior high teachers who teaches STEAM is interested in obtaining a grant to build a marine debris cleaning station. Debris from the beaches can actually be used in building this machine. Chair Sullivan assured Ms. Piela that the Beach Committee would be very supportive of the project and would help in any way possible. Chair Sullivan also spoke with Danielle Kamberalis at Blue Ocean Society who confirmed that they would also support the project and would be interested in going to the schools to speak about these types of projects. The intent is to set up something for the month of May with the schools.

## **6. Updates on bike racks, dog waste containers, Parson's Water Creek**

Selectman King did not have an update for the bike racks. He gave an update on the dog waste containers. It was noted that the containers were up all winter long and are being managed by DPW. The containers become very heavy once they are full, so there has been discussion about using a smaller barrel. At this time, the barrels are 50 gallons. Selectman King pointed out that it's not guaranteed that the Town will have general waste and dog waste barrels every year. This is something that is always discussed and reviewed in the spring for the upcoming season. Rye has a carry-in and carry-out policy. Some would argue that the barrels do not support that policy, as people would not be taking the garbage with them. Others would say that the Town has spent a lot of time and money keeping the beaches clean and the barrels should stay to support that cause. Selectman King encouraged the Beach Committee to be vigilant about having the barrels out, if this is something that they want to continue to support.

Selectman King explained that over the years, there has been high bacteria counts for the Parsons Creek Watershed, which runs from Wallis Sands and north. It's felt that the high bacteria in the water is coming from failed septs in the Parsons Creek Watershed. However, the cause has never been conclusive because there is so much wildlife in that area. Last year, the Town received a grant for DNA testing that can actually pinpoint where the bacteria is coming from. The testing has been done and the Town is waiting on the results. He assured the Committee that he will keep them updated.

There was discussion about enforcement for failed systems within the Water Creek Watershed. It was noted by Selectman King that the Town has a pump out ordinance that requires property owners in that area to pump their systems every three years. There are property owners who have not met the requirements of the ordinance. He also noted that enforcement for adhering to the ordinance and for replacing failed systems is difficult for the Town, as there are many legalities involved. The Select Board and the Code Enforcement Office will continue to work on this issue.

**7. Beach walk with Fire Chief Mark Cotreau and Police Chief Kevin Walsh  
Goals – Beach Access and Safety**

The Beach Committee will be holding a site walk with Police Chief Walsh and Fire Chief Mark Cotreau. The group will meet at the south end of Sawyers Beach on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the site walk is to discuss beach access and safety.

Chair Sullivan will post the public site walk, which will be held right before the monthly meeting for May.

**8. Beach Activities – When the Beach Committee does not know**

There was some discussion about the possibility of the Beach Committee reviewing the beach permit applications before they go to the Select Board for approval. It was noted by Chair Sullivan that the Committee is supportive of people using the beach. Most people have taken great care to be respectful of the beaches. However, it's felt that there may be potential conflicts known by the Beach Committee or there may be questions about the application from the members.

Selectman King agreed that the Beach Committee should be involved in the process. He sees no reason why they should not review the applications. He will speak to Janice Ireland about alerting the Beach Committee when new applications come in for the Select Board.

**9. Student Eco Posters – Placement Teams**

*Chair Sullivan has not heard back from the junior high. She will update the Committee when the posters are ready.*

**10. Other/New Business**

Selectman King spoke about the idea of creating a new design for beach stickers every year, much like the ones done for the Rye400. The design could possibly be done as a contest with students or local artists. The Committee agreed this would be a great idea.

Member Baker asked about the removal of rocks in front of two properties on Jenness at the end of Straw's Point. She asked if there is required permitting for the removal of the rocks. Selectman King agreed to follow up on the issue.

**11. Cider Toast: Thank you to Bill Epperson and Cybele Grier**

The Committee thanked Selectman Bill Epperson and Cybele Grier for their service on the Beach Committee.

**Motion by Joan Zofnass to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Seconded by Anne Baker. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger