

TOWN OF RYE
BEACH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 4, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall & Via Zoom

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

Others: Resident Suzanne Barton and Chris Grippo from NH Surfrider Foundation

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes – 2/21/24

Motion by Joan Zofnass to approve the minutes of February 21, 2024. Seconded by Mary Connolly-Mitchell. All in favor.

4. Invoice for \$73.32 – Sticker for Beach Posters

Motion by Mary Connolly-Mitchell to pay the invoice for the stickers in the amount of \$73.32. Seconded by Joan Zofnass. All in favor.

5. Announcements:

- **Beach cleanup confirmed for school vacation week:**
April 26th, Sawyers at 10:00 a.m.
- **April 1st – Date for terms ending** – renew/resign by March 4, 2024
Chair Sullivan announced that Mary Connolly-Mitchell will not be renewing her term on the Committee. She thanked Vice-Chair Connolly-Mitchell for her dedication and service to the Committee.

Chair Sullivan also announced that Mike Hammond will also not be renewing his position as an alternate this year, due to other time commitments. She thanked Mike for his service on the Committee.

6. Guest Speaker: Chris Grippo, Chair, NH Chapter Surfrider Foundation

Chris Grippo, NH Chapter Surfrider Foundation, met with the Beach Committee to introduce himself as chair of the Surfrider Foundation, which is a non-profit organization headquartered in California. The Foundation was founded forty years ago by a group of surfers who were interested in protecting the beach. The organization has grown to over two hundred chapters, which includes state based chapters and student clubs, with over one million followers and members. Every state that has a coastline has a chapter or multiple chapters. The mission of the Foundation is to protect the ocean, waves, and beaches. The goal of the organization is to make sure the coastline is available to everyone for recreation by being clean, well put together, well presented, and safe. Anyone who cares about the environment and the coastline are welcome to join the Foundation, as it is not just an organization made up of surfers.

Mr. Grippo gave a slide presentation on the work of the Surfrider Foundation; specifically, the water quality monitoring and public notification program overseen by the Blue Water Task Force within the Foundation. The testing is typically done during the shoulder season, as NH DES takes over the testing during the primary beach season. The schedule allows for the monitoring of the beaches year-round. The mission of the Blue Water Task Force is to provide critical water quality information to protect public health at the beach. The Task Force welcomes volunteers to help with the testing and will train those who are interested in volunteering. There are fees related to the program to cover the costs related to the testing and collection bottle supplies. The Surfrider Foundation does fundraising throughout the year and also accepts donations to help cover these costs. The Foundation tests at five beaches throughout the year with two of them being in Rye; Sawyer's Beach, and Jenness State Beach.

There was some discussion about the possibility of adding Pirates Cove to the testing list, based upon the availability of funding by the Beach Committee and through direct donations. There was also discussion about the type of bacteria being monitored and the procedure for testing.

After discussion, Mr. Grippo agreed to keep Chair Sullivan informed about times that may be available for training volunteers on the testing process.

7. Other/New Business

- The Beach Committee has one seat open for a full member and also one alternate open seat.
- Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Mary Connolly-Mitchell to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Seconded by Joan Zofnass. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana Ledger