

**TOWN OF RYE**  
**BEACH COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, April 1, 2024**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Rye Town Hall**

**Committee Present:** *Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Joan Zofnass, Anne Robert, Douglas Beattie, and Selectmen's Rep Bob McGrath*

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and Alternate Beattie was seated for the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

*None*

**3. Approval of Minutes – March 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Not Addressed*

**4. Farewells from previous meeting – 1 Member, 1 Alternate Opening**

It was noted that the Beach Committee has open seats for one member and one alternate.

**5. Appreciation and Thanks to Tom King**

The Committee thanked Tom King for his service on the Beach Committee.

**6. Welcome to Bob McGrath, Select Board Rep to Beach Committee**

Selectman Bob McGrath noted that he has lots of experience on the beach with regard to rules, as he was the animal control officer for two years. He walks the beach constantly and sees a lot of things that go on at the beach. He hopes to be a resource for the Committee. Selectman McGrath also noted that he is a professional photographer, which may be a benefit to the Committee. He has a lot of photographs of the beach.

Selectman McGrath reported that the Select Board is forming a new committee that is going to redesign the twelve signs at the beaches to make one central sign. The intent is to be more welcoming and have better communication about the rules and regulations of the beaches in Rye.

He pointed out that the goal isn't necessarily to encourage tourism; however, people do visit Rye and they should be prepared. People will always be reflective of how the town is presented to them. Their respect will follow the way the town does things.

**7. Reminders:**

- **Beach Cleanup** – School Vacation Week – April 26, Sawyers @ 10am with Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation

Chair Sullivan reminded the Committee about the beach cleanup day scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at Sawyers Beach starting at 10:00 a.m. with the Blue Ocean Society. The Committee held four beach cleanup days for the Rye400 Celebration last year, which had great turnouts.

- **Grade 4 Beach Eco Posters** – Placement in May/June

Chair Sullivan explained that the beach eco posters was started a few years ago with the junior high students and 4<sup>th</sup> grade; however, there were too many posters. It seemed like it should be a project for one grade and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade embraced it. The junior high is now working on another project, which is the design of the Town's annual beach stickers.

Chair Sullivan noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers have the students working on the posters. The posters are given to the Committee and they are laminated. Posters are hung at the Recycling Center, beach entrances, the library, post office, and various businesses in town.

**8. Update Shoulder Season Testing and Training with Chris Grippo, NH Surfrider**

Chair Sullivan noted that Surfrider does all the shoulder season testing through volunteers. Chris Grippo from Surfrider gave a presentation about the work that they do at the Beach Committee's meeting last month. Surfrider and the Committee will be scheduling a time this spring for people in the community to learn how to collect the water samples. The idea is for the Committee to actually be taking the samples for a few months during the shoulder season.

**9. Concerns Reported:**

- a.) Boulders on the beach next to Jenness State Beach**

The Committee discussed the concern about boulders on the beach and reviewed photos. It was noted that many homes received emergency permits to do cleanup and repairs caused by the recent storm events. The particular house where the boulders are located also received an emergency permit from the State for cleanup. The boulders may not be intentional, as the homeowner's cleanup may not yet be completed; however, the Committee should keep an eye on the situation.

**b.) G-Street – wall construction, clarity on public beach access**

There was some discussion about the beach access points. It was agreed that the Town's website should be updated with regard to the access points, so it will be clear to residents and people who live in the area of the access points. The Committee agreed that a site walk with DPW Director Jason Rucker would be beneficial, as it's important to protect the access points and make sure they are well defined.

**c.) Recycle bins/trash can options**

*Next meeting discussion*

**10. Dog Waste Barrels @ Pirates and Cable**

The Committee agreed to reiterate their support for the dog waste barrels at the beach. There was discussion about additional locations for dog waste barrels.

**11. Other Business**

Selectman McGrath spoke about the possible change to the Town's Committee Policy regarding term expirations. The change would ensure that when a committee, commission or board member's term is expiring, the seat will be advertised as an available seat. The seat will be advertised for thirty days prior to the expiration of the member's term, so anyone can apply for the position. The intent is to be fair and inclusive to the community.

- Next Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Joan Zofnass to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Seconded by Douglas Beattie. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F Ledger