

# **TOWN OF RYE BEACH COMMITTEE NOTES**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

**Due to heavy rain, the date was moved from 9/18/23 to 9/20/23**

**5:30 pm**

**Site Walk E & F Streets and Pirates**

**Committee Members Present:** *Mary-Ann Sullivan, Chair Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Vice Chair, Anne Robert, Joan Zofnass, Tom Mack, members, Doug Beattie, alternate, Tom King, Select Board Rep*

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order

## **2. Site Walk**

The purpose of the site walk was to review some of the customary beach accessways that the Town of Rye owns and/or has a right of way to access the beach. Select Board Rep Tom King explained the Town's responsibility to maintain clear access to the beaches for beachgoers and emergencies. He discussed the environmental changes to the beaches and beachfront properties and stressed the need for cooperation between the Town of Rye and property owners.

The following are some points of discussion:

- a. E Street - There is a cement path that offers easy access by foot to the beach, which the Town maintains, including trimming side growth within reason
- b. F Street (Private) - Due to oversight in the past, the Town no longer "owns" the full beach accessway. The Town and beachgoers have a right to access the beach on foot via F Street. The Town maintains the end section by the beach.
- c. Cable and Wallis Road Extension (Pirates) – The Beach Committee strongly supports continuing to place Bike Racks and Dog Waste containers throughout the year at these areas. All members present agreed to continue this discussion at another meeting.
- d. Pirates Beach Closures – There were fewer closures in 2023. However, there is still concern about the flow of water to the ocean from Parson's watershed. While this is not a responsibility of the BC, we are concerned about any potential water with e-coli contamination that ends up in the ocean. Rep King gave us an update on testing results.
- e. While the BC is not responsible for crosswalks, there is a safety concern where crosswalks do not exist or have not been repainted. Crossing to the beaches will be a continuing discussion.
- f. Access Point near Concord Point – This is a sandy access point that the Town maintains.
- g. Trash barrels @ Beaches - Rye's beach policy is Carry In-Carry Out. The BC will look at options where local restaurants with takeout options may be willing to put a trash barrel by the side of their buildings with signs to encourage beachgoers to return trash and recycle at home.
- h. BC Concerns and Actions – Rep King explained that any issues where the BC wishes to write a letter or summarize concerns of

beachgoers should follow protocol. After the agreement of members, the information or letter would go to the Select Board or Town Manager. The BC understands that the Charter states that we are a Standing Committee of the BOS. As volunteers, we understand that following protocol is intended not to impede any other ongoing discussions or planned actions by the Town. That being said, the BC will continue to initiate discussions, inquiries and follow up re: issues of concern and safety related to our beaches.

### **Other Business**

- a. Select Board Rep Tom King asked members for their opinion re: the 2024 Beach Parking Sticker. Everyone agreed it is attractive.
- b. The Select Board asked if the Beach Committee would work with one of the schools to design the sticker for 2025. In order to meet an August 2024 deadline for the unique specifications of the material, the design needs to be completed by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- c. The Beach Committee will review the request, as we already work with schools to produce Eco-Beach Posters and do not want to add an additional project to an already full school year. One possibility is to alternate the requests between RJH and RES or other groups.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Tom Mack, seconded Joan Zofnass, all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

### **Next Meeting**

**Monday, October 16@5:30pm**