

**Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee
Report to Rye Board of Selectmen
April 18, 2019**

Dear Selectmen:

The Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee ("Committee"), a committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen, has held eight (8) public meetings since February 19, 2019 to discuss and review residents' safety concerns on Perkins Road which were brought to the Board of Selectmen's attention.

The Board of Selectmen's full charge to the Committee is included as **Attachment A** to this report. In summary, the Committee was charged with the following:

- Become familiar with Perkins Road and the residents' safety concerns.
- Hold public meetings as necessary to receive residents' input and observations, develop recommendations and suggestions to the Board of Selectmen in order to make Perkins Road safer.
- Produce and present a final report to the Board of Selectmen by April 30, 2019.

Committee members include voting members, John Bellino, Mary Westover, Karin Nelson, Doug Abrahams and Gregg Mikolaities. Non-voting members include Selectmen Keriann Roman, Rye Police Chief Kevin Walsh, and Steve Hilman, Beach Committee.

Based on the charge given the Committee, we are pleased to provide this report to the Rye Board of Selectmen.

Since the Committee's kick off meeting on February 19, 2019 the committee has completed the following tasks:

- Held eight (8) meetings as a Committee. All meetings were properly posted and open to the public. The meetings included regular attendance from interested residents, property and business owners in the Perkins Road area. Meeting minutes are included as **Attachment B** to this report.
- Reviewed the Rye Beach Committee's Annual Reports from 2014 through 2018.
- Reviewed the January 2015 Tighe & Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study.
- Reviewed the Rye Parking Ordinance.
- Police Chief Walsh met with the area New Hampshire State Park Manager to discuss traffic flow and parking at the Jenness Beach State Park.
- Committee member Gregg Mikolaities met on site, on Perkins Road and at the Perkins Road / Ocean Boulevard intersection, with Police Chief Kevin Walsh and Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy.
- Police Chief Walsh met with the property owner of 2281 and the business owners to discuss observations of traffic flow in and out of the property.

Background

Perkins Road is a residential street that connects on the east to Route 1A/Ocean Boulevard and to Central Road on the west. The roadway from Route 1A/Ocean Boulevard to Big Rock Road has a paved width of 21 +/- feet, located within a 50 feet town right of way. The north side of this section of Perkins Road is marked and signed "No Parking". The south side of this section of Perkins Road is marked and signed "No Parking", except for a section of the roadway spanning from the 2281 Ocean Boulevard rear parking lot entrance to the posted "No Parking" sign east of Bernard Road. This noted section of Perkins Road presently accommodates approximately up to 21 cars.

The residents and visitors on Perkins Road are impacted during the summer months by vehicular and pedestrian traffic generated as a result of the very popular Jenness Beach State Park, the businesses located at 2281 Ocean Boulevard and a 150-car private parking lot located at the rear of 2281 Ocean Boulevard, which provides additional parking for visitors to the Jenness Beach State Park.

Safety Concerns, Observations and Existing Conditions

The Committee's process started with discussions during the first five (5) meetings regarding the safety concerns and observations by area residents, along with the Beach Committee and the Rye Police Department. The discussions were focused on the section of Perkins Road from Route 1A (Ocean Boulevard) to the Big Rock Road intersection. The safety concerns have increased over the last decade due to the escalation of visitors to the Jenness Beach area and the resulting escalation of vehicular traffic on Perkins Road. The combination of voluminous vehicular traffic traveling east and west on Perkins Road, pedestrians (with wagons, strollers, children in tow) traveling east and west on Perkins Road, bicyclists and the off pavement parking on Perkins Road (located on the south side of Perkins Road from the rear parking lot entrance at 2281 Ocean Boulevard to east of Bernard Drive), have presented observable safety concerns by the residents of the community.

The safety concerns include:

- Erratic speeding and distracted drivers traveling on Perkins Road in search of parking,
- Illegally parked cars (parking in "No Parking" areas, parking on pavement where prohibited, parking too close to fire hydrants and parking too close to private driveways),
- Vehicles hastily turning around in private driveways in order to change direction and/or find an off-pavement parking spot on Perkins Road – safety concerns arise when this activity (erratic entrance/backing out of driveways) occurs without proper precautions for pedestrians and other vehicles in the immediate area,
- U-turns rapidly executed to change direction and/or find an off-pavement parking spot on Perkins Road - safety concerns arise when this activity (erratic turnaround) occurs without proper precautions for pedestrians and other vehicles in the immediate area,
- Vehicles backing up on Perkins Road at a dangerous speed in order to find a parking spot on the street - safety concerns arise when this activity (dangerous speed in reverse) occurs without proper precautions for pedestrians and other vehicles in the immediate area,
- Stacking of cars waiting to park in the private parking lot at the rear of the 2281 Ocean Boulevard property,
- Cars stopping and unloading on both sides of Perkins Road, obstructing traffic flow and sight lines for vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Perkins Road,
- The urgent need for support from the State of New Hampshire Parks system in managing the Jenness Beach State Park parking Lot and directing cars to other available beach areas, including Wallis Sands State Park and Odiorne State Park, when the Jenness Beach State Park parking lot is full.

The Committee discussed the unique situation on Perkins Road, including the following existing conditions:

- The attraction of the Jenness Beach State Park, with lack of adequate parking to accommodate the increased level of visitors to the area;
- The popularity of the businesses at 2281 Ocean Boulevard;
- A private 150 car parking lot located at the rear of the 2281 Ocean Boulevard property, with the only entrance to the parking lot located on Perkins Road;
- Perkins Road provides key access to vehicles to and from the beach area for vehicles approaching the area from points west and from the Town of Rye;
- Parking allowed on the south side of Perkins Road signed “No Parking on Pavement” (located on the east adjacent to the property at 2281 Ocean Boulevard to the “No Parking” sign east of Bernard Road) is inviting to visitors searching for parking opportunities due to its proximity to all of the above and the knowledge that the parking allowed on Perkins Road is free to the public.

Period of Impact

The Committee discussed the period of time Perkins Road experiences the impact resulting in safety concerns. The consensus of the Committee is the period related to safety concerns spans from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, with July and August weekends often generating a significant volume of traffic. It was agreed weather is a contributing factor to visitor and vehicular traffic experienced on Perkins Road. Good beach days generate high levels of traffic and activity. The Committee also agreed that the summer traffic and parking situation has been worsening progressively on the Rye seacoast and on Perkins Road, in particular. Some Committee participants offered the opinion that Rye beaches are now the only area offering free parking on the New Hampshire seacoast.

The Committee also discussed observations regarding the time of day and days of the week that the traffic situation is the worst in the Perkins Road area. It was the consensus of the Committee and attendees that the traffic situation on Perkins Road peaks on summer weekends during the time period from 7 am to as late as 8 pm.

Potential Solutions

Focused on developing solutions to mitigate the safety concerns related to the increase in summer traffic, the Committee discussed temporary seasonal, and potentially permanent, changes to the Perkins Road traffic flow.

Committee discussion included corrective measures such as blocking access to Perkins Road on weekends or adjusting traffic flow to a one-way east-bound traffic pattern during the summer. The Committee, along with input from Police Chief Kevin Walsh, concluded it would be difficult to temporarily modify traffic flow and behavior over a 3-month period, and specifically on weekends. The consensus was that it would be difficult to communicate and enforce changes to the traffic flow since the majority of the people during this time period are not locals.

Additional discussion included the following:

1. The elimination of “No Parking on Pavement” parking on the south side of Perkins Road,
2. The creation of a safe passageway for pedestrians traveling east and west on Perkins Road,
3. The addition of sidewalks,
4. The installation of temporary speed bumps along Perkins Road,
5. The width of Perkins Road,
6. Additional signage and roadway markings on Perkins Road,
7. The need for police or “civilian traffic officer” at the intersection of Perkins Road and Route 1A to facilitate efficient flow of traffic and deter excessive traffic from entering Perkins Road,
8. The need for increased police presence on weekends to direct traffic,

9. Proactive enforcement of the town parking ordinance, rather than reacting to parking violations via parking tickets

Addressing the personnel suggestions above, Chief Walsh mentioned there is a shortage of qualified part time seasonal police candidates, and he noted Hampton is having difficulty filling their open positions.

CONCLUSION

The Committee respectfully requests the Selectmen consideration of the following short-term and long-term recommendations for implementation to address safety concerns on Perkins Road.

Short Term Recommendations that can be made prior to Memorial Day 2019

1. Stripe the fog lines at the Perkins Road/Ocean Boulevard intersection so that the fog lines are 24 feet apart. Currently the intersection is measured to be over 30 feet wide. By striping narrower travel lanes, the intent is to influence a slower speed for vehicles entering and exiting Perkins Road. In addition, the smaller throat width at the intersection may discourage vehicles from entering onto Perkins Road which contribute to congestion and safety concerns.
2. Install "No Parking-No Stopping" signs on the north side of Perkins Road, along the 2271 Ocean Boulevard condominium property boundary on the north side of Perkins Road at the Ocean Boulevard intersection.
3. Install temporary bollards along the 2281 Ocean Boulevard parking lot bordering Perkins Road to better define entrance and exit to the property and discourage vehicles from backing into Perkins Road.
(ATTACHMENT C)
4. Engage in conversation with the owners/operators of the 150-car parking lot at the rear of 2281 Ocean Boulevard about not allowing cars to stack on Perkins Road, waiting to enter the parking lot, and posting a "Lot Full" sign at both the north and south approaches to Perkins Road at the Ocean Boulevard intersection when the parking lot is full.
5. Police Department to install the digital message board in front of the Dunes Motel at 2281 Ocean Boulevard with messages alerting visitors when lots are full and directing traffic to alternative seacoast sites.
6. Box out driveways on the south side of Perkins to provide residents with appropriate sight lines to exit and enter their property driveways safely.
7. Install striping and pavement markings (No Parking, No Parking on Pavement) on Perkins Road as soon as possible, as weather permits.

Long Term Recommendations

1. Hire a traffic engineering firm as soon as possible to analyze, at a minimum, the following over the course of a summer and provide recommendations for traffic and safety improvements to Perkins Road and the Ocean Boulevard intersection:
 - a. traffic patterns
 - b. speed
 - c. signage
 - d. crosswalks on Ocean Boulevard
 - e. safe passageway for pedestrians traveling east and west on Perkins Road

- f. pedestrian movement, including consideration of side walk installation
- g. bicycle traffic
- h. loading and unloading of vehicles on Ocean Boulevard and Perkins Road
- i. observe traffic patterns entering and exiting the 2281 Ocean Boulevard property (front and rear parking lots)
- j. identify required adjustments, if any, to the Town of Rye Parking Ordinance.

Traffic Engineering firm should hold appropriate public hearings with Perkins Road residents, business owners, Beach Committee and other interested stakeholders.

2. Prior to hiring a traffic engineering firm and completing any permanent improvements recommended in this report, hire a survey firm to complete a partial property survey of the 2271 and 2281 Ocean Boulevard properties and their frontage on Perkins Road and Ocean Boulevard. The property survey should also include research on the width and location of the state Right of Way along Ocean Boulevard and the width and location of the town Right of Way on Perkins Road and where the current roadway pavement is located relative to the right of way.
3. Coordinate with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and the 2271 Ocean Boulevard condominium association for the removal of pavement on the north side of the Perkins Road/Ocean Boulevard intersection to provide a 24 ft wide roadway. Plant low growth shrubs in the area of the pavement removal such that it will discourage people from walking on the north side of Perkins Road, and discourage cars from loading and unloading in this area.
4. Enter into an agreement with the State of New Hampshire whereby the state will assist with traffic control and enforcement of vehicles illegally parking, including vehicles over 20 ft in length, and stopping along Ocean Boulevard. Traffic control can include, but not be limited to, gating off the entrance to the Jenness Beach Park parking lot when full and providing guidance (i.e. via additional personnel and/or installation of a message board) directing visitors to other seacoast sites with appropriate accommodations for visitors, such as Rye Harbor State Park, Wallis Sands State Park or Odiorne State Park.
5. It is our understanding funding is not available to engage a traffic engineering firm prior to the 2019 Memorial Day weekend. Committee members have agreed to observe the vehicular and pedestrian activity over the summer of 2019 as a result of the short term recommendations suggested above and provide further observations and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in September 2019 for discussions with a traffic engineering firm.

We appreciate the Board of Selectmen's attention to the above matters.

Very Truly Yours,

Perkins Road Safety Committee

Enclosures

Attachment A: Board of Selectmen Charge to the Committee

Attachment B: Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachment C: Temporary modifications to Perkins Road/Ocean Boulevard intersection:

Attachment A

Board of Selectmen Charge to the Committee

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge


The committee shall consist of not more than five members, ^{KR, DVY} ~~all residents of Rye~~, who are willing to collaborate and to work towards consensus in helping to resolve ongoing safety issues on Perkins Road. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an initial term ending on April 30, 2019. Staff members may be appointed as non-voting members of the committee. The Board of Selectmen will remove any member of the committee who demonstrates an unwillingness to collaborate and work towards consensus; and a new member will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It is the Selectmen's intent to sunset this committee after completion of its charge, unless the Selectmen vote to continue the committee.

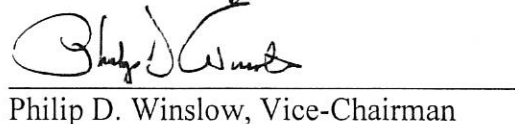
Charge to the Committee

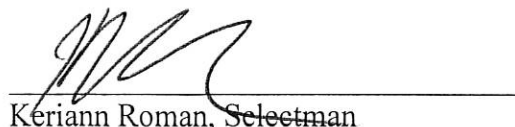
1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.
2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.
3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

Town of Rye Board of Selectmen


Priscilla V. Jenness, Chairman


Philip D. Winslow, Vice-Chairman


Keriann Roman, Selectman

Attachment B

Committee Meeting Minutes

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Members Present: Selectman Keriann Roman, Police Chief Kevin Walsh, Doug Abrams, Steve Hillman (Beach Committee Rep), John Bellino and Mary Westover. Karin Cullity-Nelson arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Note: *Non-voting members: Selectman Roman, Steve Hillman and Chief Walsh.*

I. Call to Order

Selectman Keriann Roman called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and let the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Introductions

Selectman Roman introduced the committee members present.

III. Review Committee Charge

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

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Charge to the Committee

1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-

turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.

2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.
3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

Town of Rye Board of Selectmen

IV. Elect Chairman

Motion by Doug Abrams to nominate Gregg Mikolaities as chair. Seconded by John Bellino.

Motion by John Bellino to nominate Mary Westover as vice-chair. Seconded by Doug Abrams.

There was no quorum for the votes so the nominations will be revisited when a quorum is present.

It was agreed that Member Westover would run the remainder of the meeting.

V. Next Steps

The committee discussed dates and times that would work best for the meetings, while keeping in mind the report deadline of April 30th. It was agreed to set meetings for every Thursday at 6:00 p.m., in order to stay on schedule.

Member Westover asked Chief Walsh if he had information that he would like to share with the committee before getting started.

Chief Walsh submitted photos to the committee that were taken on Perkins Road in 2015 showing different parking situations. He reviewed the photos and spoke in regards to improvements that have been made since that time. He noted that the bathhouse on Jenness State Beach is being renovated this year and they are changing the traffic flow. Instead of entering near the bathhouse, the vehicles will be entering where the exit is currently located and exiting by the bathhouse. The first year will be challenging and the traffic pattern will need to be monitored to see how it goes.

Member Abrams noted that the new proposed entrance will be across from Perkins Road, which will create more mayhem.

Chief Walsh stated that he expressed his opinions about this; however, the State's engineers already made the decision for the design.

Member Hillman stated that the Beach Committee was recommending for mitigation is having some type of uniform personnel at that corner. He asked if the State would be willing to have someone there on the weekends or would it need to be someone provided by the town. He continued that help from the State will be needed. They cannot just build the bathhouse, change the traffic pattern and walk away.

Chief Walsh replied that the State is not going to send a uniformed officer to deal with the traffic. The Police Department will have to pay attention to the situation this year and note any problems that have occurred. If there is enough information, he can submit this to the State and tell them that a change is needed. He reiterated that the town will have to see how it goes this first year.

In regards to Member Hillman's comment, Selectman Roman stated that it would be appropriate to have it on the record that the town at least asked, even though it is probably not going to happen. She can bring this to the full select board.

Member Westover stated that one of the contributing factors to the chaos in that area is that there is no one in charge. Things start to escalate and there is no one there to babysit the offenders. She thinks that someone with some designation of leadership needs to be there and be visible. Once one person misbehaves, it gives other people permission to misbehave and things start to snowball.

Speaking to Member Westover, a resident of Perkins Road, Member Abrams asked if she feels that an officer at that intersection would solve the issue.

Chief Walsh stated that it is State property and they need to hire enough staff to have someone monitoring the traffic. These people would have the ability to block the entrance, when the parking is full, and wave the vehicles on. Eventually, if people get used to that system, it will self-regulate and keep the traffic flowing.

Member Westover agreed. She stated that what they are trying to do is curb the bad behavior and adjust habits in that area. This new designation of parking is going to cause additional chaos down there in the beginning.

Note: Karin Cullity-Nelson arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Selectman Roman noted that the committee should revote on the motions for chair and vice-chair now that a quorum is present. She also suggested having a secretary for the committee to take notes on their work.

Doug Abrams put his motion back on the table to nominate Gregg Mikolaities as chair. John Bellino seconded the nomination. All in favor. (voting: D. Abram, J. Bellino, M. Westover, K. Cullity-Nelson)

John Bellino put his motion back on the table to nominate Mary Westover as vice-chair. Doug Abrams seconded the motion. All in favor. (voting: D. Abram, J. Bellino, M. Westover, K. Cullity-Nelson)

Motion by Doug Abrams to nominate John Bellino as secretary. Seconded by Karin Cullity-Nelson. All in favor. (voting: D. Abram, J. Bellino, M. Westover, K. Cullity-Nelson)

Vice-Chair Westover opened back up to Chief Walsh.

Chief Walsh suggested that the committee form a checklist for the next meeting of specific traffic safety concerns.

Selectman Roman suggested going through the Beach Committee reports because they have identified concerns for Perkins Road already.

Speaking to Vice-Chair Westover, Member Abrams asked how many days a year she feels are a concern.

Vice-Chair Westover noted that over the last ten years it has escalated. At this point, it is every Saturday and Sunday with nice weather from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There are also big vacation weeks where the weekend activity can occur all week long, typically the last two weeks of July into the first two weeks of August. She has found that the families and college students come back into the area if it is a nice Labor Day Weekend. Its creeping up to be more of an issue. That last couple of summers have escalated significantly. Safety is really an issue at this point. Anyone who lives in that area is accustomed to the visitors but it has taken a completely different direction in the last five years.

Member Bellino stated he lives three blocks up. He can confirm that Saturdays and Sundays, six or seven weeks out of the year, have the most traffic and the most issues.

Vice-Chair Westover read a letter from **Martha Leary, Dunes Motor Inn**, regarding her parking concerns. She requested that no decisions be made on any changes until all reports regarding the parking and traffic be made available and/or are distributed to all residents of Rye.

Vice-Chair Westover noted that she would like the members to review the Tighe & Bond Report. She would like Member Mikolaities to speak to this in more detail. She pointed out that the report didn't have anything specific about Perkins Road or the activity that is being experienced in that area.

VI. Public Input

Vice-Chair Westover opened to the public for comment.

Lori Carbajal, 18 Tower Ave, Beach Committee member, noted that the Beach Committee had a meeting recently that was committed to discussing the issues on Perkins Road and outlying areas. She urged people to review the minutes of the meeting (January 19th) and look at the recommendations made by the committee. Some of the recommendations included; stationary attendant at Jenness State Beach, stationary attendant at lower Perkins Road, stationary attendant (police presence) at Sawyer's Beach. It was also recommended to have "No U-turn" signs, enforced by a parking control officer, and a parking attendant supported by the State at Wallis Sands State Park. It would behoove the State financially to place an attendant there. The State has done nothing to appropriate any assistance for the Town of Rye. It has been on the shoulders of the taxpayers. She does not think that Rye can really do anything purposefully unless they get help from the State in terms of manpower.

Chief Walsh spoke in regards to the contact people for the State. He noted that he could set up a meeting with DRED to discuss their intentions for staffing at Jenness State Park for this coming season. He will try to have this information for the next meeting. He will also ask if their parking is restricted to certain size vehicles, such as RV's.

Selectman Roman noted that she requested that a discussion about Jenness State parking be added to the Selectmen's next meeting agenda. A letter could be sent from the select board to the State listing the town's requests to see where that would go.

A resident from Old Beach Road, asked what the specific problems are on Perkins Road.

Vice-Chair Westover noted there are lots of traffic issues and congestion on Perkins Road. Cars are turning around on Perkins and soliciting homeowners for parking in their driveways. There are pedestrians going back and forth to the beach with baby carriages and wagons. The pedestrian traffic, coupled with cars going east and west on Perkins Road looking for parking, causes safety issues. People have almost been hit on Perkins. The drivers are not necessarily speeding. They are not paying attention. Their focus is on finding a parking spot that doesn't exist on Perkins Road. The amount of traffic that cycles back and forth on that road is astounding.

A suggestion was made for one-way traffic in the summer.

Chief Walsh noted the issue is how this will be managed and will it be realistic to enforce.

Another suggestion was to make the parking on Perkins residential only.

Chief Walsh explained that the concern is they are going to look deeper into other neighborhoods for parking. That is already starting to happen on Maple and Big Rock.

There was discussion on enforcement.

Member Hillman stated that if the traffic flow can be improved and the town can get some help from the State that would be a good path forward. At the end of the day, there are a lot of people that come into this town. All the problems are not going to be solved. The key is that what is solved in this area is going to be pushed somewhere else. The committee needs to be aware of that so they don't pass the problems onto others.

VII. Set Date for Next Meeting

- **Next Meeting Thursday, February 28th, 6:00 p.m.**

VIII. Other Business

- **None**

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Westover adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

Martha Leary
Dunes Motor Inn
February 18, 2019

Selectman / Parking Committee Chair, Keriann Roman:

When the many glorious NH State Parks were developed it was with the intent that **All Residents of New Hampshire** should and would be able to enjoy their beauty for generations to come. People have been coming to visit and enjoy the beauty of Rye Beach for centuries. Some have made it home and earned their livelihood on and near this ever changing scenic gift. My husband grew up visiting Rye Beach (his uncle John Carberry owned and operated Carberry's Store on Ocean Blvd.). It was his attachment to Rye that was the overriding reason for his choosing to develop The Dunes Motor Inn here in Rye In 1962. At that time the dunes rear parking area included the three house lots on Perkins Road.

Three years ago a request was made by town residents as to safety concerns in and around the Jenness Beach area. Funds were allocated and the engineering firm Tighe and Bond was hired to review parking and traffic concerns. Their findings were that there were no specific areas in Rye that have higher numbers of traffic incidents and that where cars are parked actually reduces the rate of speed. They concluded that there isn't a lack of resident parking but there is a lack of public parking. They made several recommendations for improvement. In addition the town has received reports from The Rye Police Dept., Department of Public Works, The Town Clerk and The Beach Committee. It appears that changes are to be made without consideration of these recommendations. The real issue here is not resident parking versus public parking but the global issue of population growth and the best approach to offset it's impact.

Some of us may recall several years ago the attempt to deny public access to areas beyond the boundaries of Jenness State Beach. Thankfully, this was deemed illegal by the courts and access was granted up to the high water mark from Sawyer's Beach to Plaice Cove.

I respectfully submit that NO changes be made until these reports requested by the town are made available and or distributed to all residents of Rye.'

*Sincerely, Martha Leary
Dunes Motor Inn
2281 Ocean Blvd.
Rye Beach*

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Voting Members Present: Chairman Gregg Mikolaities, Vice-Chair Mary Westover, Secretary John Bellino, and Karin Nelson.

Non-voting members Present: Steve Hillman, representing the Beach Committee and Police Chief Kevin Walsh.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mikolaities called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

The members of the committee and the public introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the Minutes of February 19, 2019

- **Member Hillman, representing the Beach Committee**, noted that the Beach Committee submitted the end of year report to the Select Board, Parking Committee and public for review. One the recommendations that was listed in the report was to make Perkins Road “permit parking only”. The statement was not agreed upon by the full Beach Committee so the statement was retracted after the report was provided to the selectmen. He noted that this statement has not been deleted from the report but the public should be removed from the recommendations. This was not a statement that was made at the previous Parking Committee Meeting. He brings this to the committee’s attention for informational purposes.

**Motion by Mary Westover to approve the minutes of February 19, 2019 as presented.
Seconded by Karin Nelson. Vote: 3-0-1 Abstained: Gregg Mikolaities**

IV. Review Committee Charge

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

The committee shall consist of not more than five members who are willing to collaborate and to work towards consensus in helping to resolve ongoing safety issues on Perkins Road. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an initial term ending on April 30, 2019. Staff members may be appointed as non-voting members of the committee. The Board of Selectmen will remove any member of the committee who demonstrates an unwillingness to collaborate and work towards consensus; and a new member will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It is the Selectmen's intent to sunset this committee after completion of its charge, unless the Selectmen vote to continue the committee.

Charge to the Committee

- 1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.**
- 2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.**
- 3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.**

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

Chair Mikolaities explained the committee is a safety committee. There has been some safety issues that have been identified, such as speeding, turning around in driveways, executing U-turns, parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways causing unsafe conditions. The committee's charge is to review the Beach Committee's annual reports, the town's ordinances and the Tighe and Bond parking study. The committee is to prepare a final report for the Select

Board by April 30th. He asked if there were other issues that were discussed at the first meeting. He asked if there were any questions or confusion about the charge.

Vice-Chair Westover stated it should be clear to everyone that it was the Board of Selectmen that narrowed the focus of this safety committee to just Perkins Road. There were other streets that were represented by taxpayers (at the previous meeting) that had concerns about their areas.

Member Nelson asked if narrowing it to just Perkins Road is possible because it is a bigger issue with the whole Jenness Beach parking. One does not work without the other.

Vice-Chair Westover commented there is a cause and effect that comes into play for sure. She was sensitive to the fact that it appeared there was some confusion that the Perkins Road residents somehow had leverage on this safety committee, which is not true. When the Board of Selectmen established the charge at one of their meetings, there was debate about how much of this could be taken on at one time. The Selectmen's minutes of that meeting reflect that they wanted to focus on Perkins. She wanted it to be clear that other roads are not being "dismissed".

Chair Mikolaities stated his guess is that whatever this committee comes up with may set a precedent for other areas. The committee should be cognizant of that too. He noted that he has also heard the word "parking". He pointed out it is a safety committee.

Vice-Chair Westover stated they should be sure to always address it as a "safety" committee to help diminish any confusion. After the previous meeting, she had asked the selectmen's secretary to distribute the Beach Committee's report that was presented at the select board's February 11th meeting. That included the annual report recommendations but it also had additional information that the committee should review and be familiar with. She pointed out the Beach Committee has done a lot of work on a lot of things, including things related to the charge of this committee.

Action Items from Previous Meeting:

- **Update – Jenness Beach State Park**

Chief Walsh reported that he met with the State Parks Manager Meredith Collins. She verified that the entrance and exit to the bathhouse site is not going to be changed. It will remain the same as it is now. He also spoke to her about the size of vehicles that can park at Jenness State Park. She confirmed there is a length limit of 20ft. He discussed awareness, education and enforcement on that type of violation with Ms. Collins. She researched how many tickets were issued for that violation. She reported back that there were a low amount of tickets issued; however, that may be due to minimal staffing. Ms. Collins is currently working with her administration on staffing for the summer. The oversight at Jenness State Beach, in the past, was not as direct as it should be. She is going to make some adjustments this year to improve the situation at Jenness. He summarized that Ms. Collins is going to be working on a better oversight of the park, and awareness and enforcement of the rules of Jenness State Beach parking lot. He noted that he will be working with the parks manager over the summer to see if adjustments or other improvements need to be made.

Chair Mikolaities asked the Chief to follow up with an update before the committee ends. (March 28th for update.)

Chief Walsh agreed.

- **State to put up signs to direct traffic up the road (Jenness Beach Park) when lot is full.**

Chief Walsh noted that if the staffing at the park is increased this year, they will be able to have barriers and someone to move the traffic along when the parking lot becomes full. He will follow up with the parks manager on this action item also.

Member Bellino asked if signs from the town can be used, if the State does not implement this.

Chief Walsh confirmed that he can work something out. The sign will be there or on the Wallis Road side. The signs addresses the crosswalk, alcohol and fireworks. It can be adjusted to say something else.

V. Discuss Past Area Studies
a. Beach Committee Presentations
b. Tighe & Bond Parking Study

Vice-Chair Westover stated that at some point, the committee should determine if there are any items that should be taken out of those documents that might be helpful in addressing the charge. There is a lot of information and she feels it should be filtered to what is appropriate for the committee. This will lead to discussion about options that the committee could consider in pursuing their charge.

The committee agreed to read the reports for discussion at the next meeting.

In regards to the Tighe and Bond Study, Chair Mikolaities noted this was done for a different charge. It was done for a parking charge, as opposed to a safety charge. Obviously, parking is safety related so safety issues were identified.

Vice-Chair Westover asked Chair Mikolaities to summarize the objectives and the main points that came out of the study that are relevant to Perkins Road.

Chair Mikolaities explained that from a safety standpoint the issues were cars turning corners, parking at driveways, sight distance and stacking to enter the parking lots. He would like the committee to discuss what they see as the safety issues on Perkins Road.

Chief Walsh noted his thoughts on safety issues:

- When parking is full, there should be someone to move the vehicles along to eliminate stacking.
- There is a pizza restaurant at the corner before the lot. There is parking at this restaurant and cars are backing up.

Chief Walsh would like the committee to look at whether the ordinance should be adjusted to have no standing parking within the first 500ft of Ocean Blvd on Perkins. This would reinforce that this area needs to stay clear. He is also going to see how other beach communities manage intersections that have businesses and a residential neighborhood connected to it. He noted that an ordinance should be in place for this to back up the officers trying to enforce this.

The committee listed safety concerns and issues they see for Perkins Road:

- Business on the corner of the intersection causes safety issues with business traffic and cars backing out of the business parking spaces. The business traffic/parking needs to be managed.
- The intersection of Perkins Road and Ocean Boulevard becomes blocked by standing vehicles. The intersection should be clear.
- Speeding – The speed limit on Perkins is 30mph if the conditions are such that this speed would be safe. Conditions, such as pedestrian and vehicle traffic, may warrant a vehicle to be moving at a speed lower than the speed limit. Vehicles move too quickly at times due to the conditions.
- Vehicles turning around in driveways on Perkins.
- Perkins Road does not have sidewalks.
- There is a wide opening to Perkins Road. This may be exacerbating the situation.
- Cars park too close to the fire hydrant on Perkins. The area should be defined as “no parking”.
- Escalation of vehicle traffic going back and forth on Perkins Road contributes to safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- People are confused about the “no parking”. Signage is a big issue.
- The State encourages visitors to the beach. Congestion in this area is coming from the Jenness State Park. The State is not part of the solution.

VI. Public Input

Cynthia Hannon, 40 Perkins Road, stated people use her driveway to turn around all day long. She pointed out that her house is across the street from a handicapped parking space. People use that area as a way to turn around and they drive right over her lawn. She continued is not the speeding but the stop and the start of the traffic and the distracted driving. It is a safety issue because people are not paying attention. She noted that the issue goes on every single weekend during the summer.

Bill Marney, 14 Cable Road, stated he experiences the same issues in front of his house. The speeds on Cable is a lot greater than Perkins. The volume is also greater. It is the same type of activity as Perkins, with U-turns right in the road all day. People parking on Cable Road cannot get out of their cars without getting out right onto the road. (He submitted photos showing the issues in his neighborhood on Cable to the committee.) He stated the town has been lucky so far but something bad is going to happen. The situation is getting worse every summer.

Ryan McGill, 21 Perkins Road, stated there are certain parts of any situation that can make it unsafe. There is more danger on the roads everywhere. He does not think it is specific to

Perkins Road. It's everywhere in Rye. In regards to speeding, he stated the residents drive the fastest because they know the streets. He sees that it is busier and understands the issues. He just wants to have weight on both sides. He noted that since the signage for "no parking" has been put in on Perkins Road, the number of tickets that have been issued has decreased. From the stats for a clean and safe beach, it is safer and cleaner than it used to be.

Chair Mikolaities summarized the concerns:

- Sidewalks
- Speeding
- Width of Perkins Road
- No parking at hydrants
- Volume of traffic
- Signage
- State is not a partner in the solution
- Turnaround in handicapped space (near 41/43)

Vice-Chair Westover noted it is out there that there is free parking in Rye for the beach. People are coming down early to park for the beach. She pointed out this is not so much a safety issue. However, the knowledge of free parking in Rye is contributing to the escalation of vehicle traffic in the community that results in safety concerns on Perkins Road, as well as other roads.

Member Bellino stated that even if people are charged for parking from Ocean Boulevard all the way up, they are still going to come.

The committee agreed.

Vice-Chair Westover stated it is an issue of how this can be managed so the visitors are safe and have the accommodations they are looking for when they come, as well as everyone else in the community being safe.

VII. Develop time line for completion of committee work

1. Identify and list concerns
2. Site walk on Perkins Road (if committee agrees)
3. Discuss solutions
4. Draft report
5. Edit draft
6. Final meeting/final report

VIII. Action items for next meeting

- Members to read through the Beach Committee and Tighe and Bond Reports for next meeting

- Chief Walsh will look at the handicap spot and the fire hydrant on Perkins Road. He will address signage for the intersection and will speak with the Public Works Director about the width of the road. He will also reach out to other beach communities for information on what they are doing for intersections that have businesses and a residential neighborhood adjacent.
- Members to list and prioritize concerns
- Members to think about ways the State can contribute to the solutions

IX. Confirm attendance for next meeting

- **Next Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 7th, 6:00 p.m., Rye Public Library**

X. Other Business

- **None**

Adjournment

Motion by John Bellino to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Mary Westover. All in favor.

**A copy of the Tighe and Bond Parking Assessment Report and the Beach Committee Report are available for review in the Selectmen's Office, Rye Town Hall.*

Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F. Ledger

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Rye Public Library

Voting Members Present: Chairman Gregg Mikolaities, Vice-Chair Mary Westover, Secretary John Bellino, and Karin Nelson.

Non-voting members Present: Steve Hillman, representing the Beach Committee and Police Chief Kevin Walsh.

Public Present: Joan & Jim Cassin, 17 Perkins Road, Bill Marney, 14 Cable Road and Ryan McGill, 21 Perkins Road.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mikolaities called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

The members of the committee and the public introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the Minutes of February 28, 2019

**Motion by Karin Nelson to approve the minutes of February 28, 2019 as presented.
Seconded by John Bellino. All in favor.**

IV. Charge to Committee

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

Charge to the Committee

- 1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.**
- 2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing**

recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.

3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

- V. Discuss Past Area Studies
 - a. Beach Committee Presentations
 - b. Tighe & Bond Parking Study

The committee members were to review the Beach Committee report and the Tighe and Bond parking study for preparation for this meeting.

Update from Chief Walsh:

Police Chief Kevin Walsh noted that he met with the town's highway foreman who has oversight of the town signage. He and the foreman reviewed the intersection at Perkins Road and Ocean Boulevard. (Chief Walsh presented a photo of the intersection to the committee to review details.) He explained the property line of the condo property (on the corner of Perkins) triangles out into the travel lane on the north side of Perkins Road. The land on the corner is all private. There is usually not an issue with cars parking in this location; however, if there was, it would be an issue of private property. He continued the day he was at Perkins Road, there were two cars parked at a telephone pole, which was a "no parking" zone but it is not well marked. He and the foreman agreed that the "no parking" stamp (on the south side pavement) will be continued up to the stop bar at the end of Perkins. The pavement near the area of the stone wall, will also be stamped "no parking". One of his safety concerns is the parallel parking in front of the pizza restaurant. The cars are backing out of those spaces into Perkins Road.

There was discussion on the issue of vehicles waiting for parking on Perkins, once the paid parking at the Dunes parking lot is full, and causing a backup of traffic.

Member Nelson suggested that a "parking lot full" sign be posted closer to Ocean Boulevard before Perkins Road, to help discourage cars from turning onto Perkins if the lot is full.

Chief Walsh will follow up with the owner of the Dunes to discuss some ideas. He noted that the parking lot has two entrances and exits; one off Perkins and one on Ocean Boulevard. There was some discussion about changing the way cars enter and exit the lot; however, it was felt that it would be best to leave it as it is due to the volume of cars entering the lot. Changing the entrance would cause too much congestion in other areas. He will also speak with the owner about roping off the entrances, once the lot is full, and having the staff wave the cars along.

It was noted that Vice-Chair Westover spoke with Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy. She stated that Mr. McCarthy said that all the roads in town have a 50ft town right-of-way. Where that 50ft is on Perkins Road, he was not sure because the pavement is not always in the center. He indicated that the property markers would have to be found, which cannot be done right now because of the snow. She noted that Perkins Road, from outer white line to outer white line, is 21ft so it is pretty narrow.

The committee reviewed (on the map) Chair Mikolaities suggestion to define the entrance to the rear Dunes lot and keep it separate and distinct from the side parking lot.

Chief Walsh summarized that “no parking” will be stamped on the pavement up to the intersection on the south side. There will also be “no parking” signs where the white fences are located. He will also work with Dennis McCarthy and Chair Mikolaities on some other ideas to present to the committee. He continued that 43 Perkins Road has an extra wide driveway (which is used as a turnaround for some vehicles.) He looked at that area and there is a granite post at the end of the driveway for a fence. He will speak with the property owned about putting something in that area to narrow the width of the driveway to help discourage cars from using the area as a turnaround. He will come back to the committee with more information.

VI. Potential Solutions Discussion

The committee reviewed the list of concerns noted at the meeting on February 28th:

- Sidewalks
- Speeding
- Width of Perkins Road
- No parking at hydrants
- Volume of traffic
- Signage
- State is not a partner in the solution
- Turnaround in handicapped space (near 41/43)

Joan Cassin, 17 Perkins Road, stated that vehicles pulling into driveways does not seem like a very important thing to people; however, it is for the people who live in those homes. There are children playing outside and this is a dangerous situation. The cars are not looking out for children and are pulling into driveways quickly to turnaround. She asked if Perkins Road could be made a one-way road to the beach. Vehicles would only be able to go down the road and it would help to keep the traffic down.

Member Hillman, Beach Committee Representative, stated that the Beach Committee discussed the idea of having no access onto Perkins from Ocean Blvd. The suggestion was to stop it at the Dunes entrance. It wouldn't be all the time, perhaps just weekends during the summer. He noted that he spoke with the Police Chief but he did not think it was the best idea.

Chief Walsh stated that education and enforcement to make this idea happen would be huge. It would cause unintended consequences. There are people who have been asking for this on other streets. Also, he is not sure if all Perkins Road residents would be in agreement with the idea, or

even other town residents who use the road would agree. To change the traffic pattern, or have it on specific days, would not work well because it would be hard to keep people aware and educated.

Chair Mikolaities stated that at the last meeting the committee identified safety issues. He would like to discuss when these issues are concerns, such as Memorial Day to Labor Day or only weekends. They need to make sure they are not changing traffic and adding sidewalks for just a few days per year.

Mrs. Cassin pointed out that this would be hard to articulate because some summers are warm and the traffic starts from Memorial Day through to the middle of September.

Chief Walsh noted that in 2018 there were very few good days in May and June. In July, the weather changed and the traffic started. It went until the middle of September.

James Cassin, 17 Perkins Road, stated that whatever is done has to be consistent every day because there will be a learning curve. Signage and rules should be consistent from a certain date in May to September that way people will know what they can do every time they come.

Ryan McGill, 21 Perkins Road, stated that Dow Lane has high speed traffic coming off Route 1 every day of the year. Dow Lane residents wanted a dead-end road. In talking about changing traffic to address the safety on Perkins Road, there would first need to be a study to see the direction of the flow and where the speed is coming from. He personally thinks the highest speeds are coming from in town down the street to the beach (travelling east on Perkins).

Chair Mikolaities noted the committee is making recommendations to the Selectmen. The committee is going to work through “baby steps” with a bigger vision for the future. Whatever is done on Perkins will affect other streets and they have to be mindful of that.

Mr. McGill stated that having a traffic study will help to make the correct decisions. There are a lot of people in town that feel their street is unsafe. How can it be said that Perkins is the worst when there is speeding traffic on Dow coming off Route 1. He continued that the traffic starts when the kids get out of school, which is around the 20th of June. That is why the Fourth of July becomes the big week. The biggest issues happen on the weekends when people do not have work and are trying to get to the beach.

Speaking to Mr. McGill, Chair Mikolaities asked what he would suggest for changes.

Mr. McGill stated he feels comfortable on the road. He walks on the road and feels comfortable most days. On the busy days, he uses more caution because he knows it is a busy day. He pointed out the busier days are on the weekends; however, he does not find it to be a safety issue.

Chair Mikolaities stated it is not the locals. The locals know where to park and where to go to the beach. The locals know what to avoid. He thinks it's a matter of training the beachgoers and people who are visiting the businesses in that area.

Member Nelson stated there are 10 weeks max and 10 Saturday and Sundays. That is only if those Saturday and Sundays are perfect. Her thought is they do the signage and some of the things that are being talked about and see how it goes. Start small and see how this summer goes. If there is still an issue, then it can be relooked at and a traffic safety study can be done.

Member Bellino concurred that whatever is done has to start small and then expand out. It has to be tried out to see if it is going to work. As long as the chief and the town is open to piloting, that would be a path forward. He continued that the idea of no through traffic has a lot of elasticity to it and issues for surrounding neighborhoods. The committee has to look at how these ideas are going to solve the problem, as well as how it is going to impact.

Chair Mikolaities noted that a recommendation to the Selectmen could be that the committee reconvenes in October to review how things went over the season.

Vice-Chair Westover stated the issues are from Memorial to Labor Day on the weekends and the holiday. She thinks they should start with that because it is the biggest impact. Vacation weeks and good weather days just cannot be predicted.

Chair Mikolaities asked if the issues last all day long.

Chief Walsh explained that on good weather days there is some early morning movement, such as 7:00 a.m. By 9:00 or 10:00 a.m., the area is packed. The traffic can go up to 8:00 p.m.

Member Hillman agreed the issues are over those 20 to 24 days, (weekends), with a bump for holidays and good weather over July, August and the first part of September.

Chief Walsh confirmed it is the weekends and holidays that are the issue. He feels that Sundays are most packed if it is a good weather day.

Bill Marney, 14 Cable Road, noted there are college kids who get out of school in May who go to the beach. He sees it starting a little earlier than July. He sees it from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Vice-Chair Westover pointed out that is actually 15 weekends in 2019; from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Mrs. Cassin stated that there is not a huge amount of people around Memorial Day because there are not a lot of people going to the beach quite yet. If things were started then, people who went to the beach would start to see that things have changed. This will get people in the mode of what has changed and what they should do.

Member Nelson stated that signage is not a seasonal change. It is not training people for Memorial Day to Labor Day. It is signage for year round. No parking on the pavement is not going to change.

Vice-Chair Westover explained that the behavior changes between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Signage can be all the same but the rule book goes out the window.

Chief Walsh stated the big part of this is enforcement. Defining this better makes the awareness better for people. If the parking staff is in doubt, they are told to write the ticket. The administrator who handles the appeals is very good at looking at each case along with the ordinance. In moving forward, the way the tickets are issued and documented are being improved. He noted further up Perkins towards Central, there are a couple of spots where vehicles can park significantly off the road and that has started to happen. He believes the driveway boxes have pushed some of the parking that way. The frequency of that is more on the weekends. He asked if the committee should look at this area for “no parking”. He will bring photos to the committee of the area and a copy of the ordinance to review.

The committee reviewed photos submitted taken on Perkins Road by Vice-Chair Westover in August 2018, which show the activity for that area.

Member Hillman stated that one thing one of the Beach Committee members is very adamant about is “no stopping, no standing”; just like “no parking”. She thinks that is an issue because people may not park but they will stop. In this particular area, that might be something that should be considered.

Speaking to Chief Walsh, Member Bellino commented that it was mentioned at the first meeting that there have been some changes made to help alleviate that.

Chief Walsh stated that in the area near the Dunes, people will stop to unload their vehicles and then move on to a parking space. During the 3 to 5 minutes that they are stopped to unload, the traffic is being backed up. He suggested that they may want to consider adding to the “no parking” a “no unloading zone”.

Mr. McGill suggested having an unloading zone.

Chief Walsh commented that he agrees with this idea. The only issue is where the safest place would be to have that zone.

Mr. McGill stated it would not just be unloading at Perkins. It would be unloading at Jenness, Sawyer’s, Pirate’s Cove, etc.

Referring to the State beach, Vice-Chair Westover noted there are hash lines at the end. She always thought that was no parking but also to allow someone to unload.

Chief Walsh explained the motion that goes on in that lot is chaotic. When the spaces are all full, they will park in handicap or the traffic lane to unload, and will back up traffic. There is a lot of unloading going on inside the parking lot that is backing up the traffic onto Ocean Boulevard. He pointed out that he spoke with Meredith Collins (State Parks Manager) about the idea of having a staff member available to help keep the traffic moving.

There was some discussion about signage to move the cars north when the parking lot is full.

Chair Mikolaities spoke about temporary speedbumps that were put in at the recreation fields to slow traffic down. The speedbumps are made of rubber and are removable so they can be used as needed.

Chair Mikolaities summarized the discussion:

- The consensus of the committee is that the timeframe of the traffic/safety concerns is between Memorial Day and Labor Day;
- The focus is primarily weekends and holidays;
- The committee is not talking about permanent changes to traffic flow; and
- The committee is trying to redefine what is already in place for an ordinance.

He asked the committee if they should be looking at long-term solutions for pedestrians in that area, such as sidewalks.

Vice-Chair Westover stated the pedestrian issue has merit. Cars going east and west, and being parking on the south side of Perkins Road with pedestrians going east and west, is challenging. She thinks they should discuss this to try to brainstorm some ideas. If there is some good progress at the bottom of the road (the first 300ft off Ocean Blvd.), it might emanate positive change throughout Perkins Road. She would like to factor in the pedestrian traffic and the parking along the south side of Perkins, just to know that it is there and how the moving parts interact.

Chair Mikolaities stated that when he looks at these things, either the road is made wide enough so people can safely park or it is narrowed down so people cannot park. This road is 21ft and people are still parking where there are “no parking” signs. The road should not be made wider to define more spaces but it really can’t be smaller than 21ft.

Member Nelson stated a sidewalk would certainly solve the problem of parking on the north side of Perkins Road. It would cover the safety issue of people walking up and down the street and there would still be parking on the south side.

Chief Walsh noted there will be a cost. There is also the consideration of town maintenance and liability.

Chair Mikolaities explained that a sidewalk also needs drainage because of the curb. There is also the option of a multipurpose gravel/dirt path about 6 to 8ft wide. The pedestrians could be directed to the path.

Mr. McGill stated that people will still walk in the street. Even if there are no cars, people do not walk in the dirt, the grass or side of road. They will walk in the middle of the road. Sidewalks could be put in and people will still walk their carts down the center of the road.

Member Nelson agreed.

Member Bellino stated everyone walks down the center on all those side streets. Even if there were sidewalks, people wouldn't use them.

Vice-Chair Westover stated the only difference between Perkins and some of those other roads, is that there is so much activity at the end of Perkins. What makes it more complicated on Perkins is that there is a higher frequency of traffic just because of what is going on at the end of the road.

Mr. Cassin noted that on the south side of Perkins, vehicles are parked very close to the driveways. He doesn't think they can box off the driveways, as was done on Route 1A; however, a shrub 3ft from the mailboxes might give enough space for the residents to get out.

Chief Walsh pointed out that anything that is done is going to have needs for maintenance and that needs to be considered.

Member Bellino stated he has no doubt that the residents on Perkins Road have a unique situation. There are a lot of factors that are creating the "perfect storm". There is certainly more traffic going down Perkins Road, compared to other side roads. He agrees it is much different than any of the roads north of Perkins.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that there may be some simple solutions. She thinks the committee has made good progress on the end of Perkins Road. Once that is identified and clarified, the committee could then think about addressing the area from the Dunes to Big Rock Road. It should be broken down into "bite size pieces" with small changes, not sweeping changes that are going to alienate everybody. They should want everyone to "buy" into this and to help. She suggested that they look at the changes this summer and then consider other steps for next summer. She commented there is a lot of frustration in the neighborhood and everyone wants a solution right now. However, they need to step back and realize that it is realistically going to be a slow process.

Member Hillman stated the Beach Committee states in all their reports that the State should help because that is part of the scenario. The more the State can give, the more it will help the situation. The town cannot do this alone.

Mrs. Cassin asked who connects with the State.

Member Hillman noted that the Chief is working with people from the State.

Chief Walsh explained he meets and is working with the State parks to manage things on the "ground level". When it comes to the State road, and issues above the State parks, that is where the town administrator and the selectmen are helpful. The committee can make recommendations, with some merit, to the select board on things that should be changed and they can take the ball from there.

Referring to the speedbumps mentioned earlier, Mr. Cassin stated this might be something that should be considered for traffic coming from in town for cars that are speeding to the beach.

Chief Walsh noted that what is done for one, must be done for all.

Speaking to Mr. Cassin, Vice-Chair Westover asked if they see people speeding going east on Perkins.

Mr. Cassin confirmed.

Mr. McGill stated it is more on days when it is not busy that he sees the most speed. When cars are parked there and people see that it is busy, they tend to slow down. He pointed out that late at night there are cars coming off Ocean into Rye, which are mostly residents.

VII. Action items for next meeting

- The committee agreed that Chair Mikolaities and Chief Walsh should meet with the Public Works Director to discuss possible ideas. The information will be brought back to the committee at the next meeting for discussion. DPW also has maps showing the intersection and Perkins, which can be brought back to the committee for review.
- Chief Walsh will speak with the owners of 43 Perkins Road about the extra wide driveway entrance.
- Chief Walsh will bring copies of the ordinance for Perkins Road to the next meeting. He will also bring photos of some of the areas on Perkins, closer to Central Road, where he has seen cars parked for the beach.
- Members to think about “calming” factors for the area starting at the entrance to the Dunes lot to Big Rock Road.

VIII. Confirm attendance for next meeting

- The committee agreed to a meeting again in two weeks, due to the upcoming town vote and timeframe for meeting with DPW.
 - **Next Meeting – Thursday, March 21st, 5:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall**

IX. Other Business

- **None**

Adjournment

Motion by John Bellino to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Seconded by Karin Westover. All in favor.

**A copy of the Tighe and Bond Parking Assessment Report and the Beach Committee Report are available for review in the Selectmen’s Office, Rye Town Hall.*

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Voting Members Present: Chairman Gregg Mikolaities, Vice-Chair Mary Westover (by telephone), Secretary John Bellino, Karin Nelson and Doug Abrams.

Non-voting members Present: Police Chief Kevin Walsh.

Also present: Beach Committee Member Larry Rocha, Perkins Road

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mikolaities called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

The members of the committee and the public introduced themselves.

III. Charge to Committee

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

Charge to the Committee

- 1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.**
- 2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.**
- 3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.**

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of March 7, 2019

The following corrections were noted:

- It should be noted the Bill Marney should be **Bill Lowney**.
- Page 4, 6th paragraph, last sentence should read: **Whatever is done on Perkins may affect other streets and they have to be mindful of that.**
- Page 6, 4th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: **He thinks that is an issue because people may not park but they will stop.**
- Page 9, **Karin Nelson** seconded the motion to adjourn.

Motion by Karin Nelson to approve the minutes of March 7, 2019 as amended. Seconded by John Bellino. Vote: 3-0. Abstained: Doug Abrams

V. Discuss on site meeting with Public Works and Police

Chair Mikolaities noted that he and Chief Walsh met with Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy since the last meeting. (He presented a sketch of the intersection of Perkins Road and Ocean Blvd to the committee.) He stated that one of the things they identified was the first couple hundred feet and how it can be cleaned up. He noted that Perkins Road is very wide in this area. One of the things that he has heard is that this is just a “free” right turn move because of its width. One idea discussed with Mr. McCarthy is bringing the striping further down on the road when this area is restriped this spring. A future project would be pulling out the pavement in the DOT right-of-way to make it smaller.

Chief Walsh noted there is a “no parking” sign in that area that needs to be replaced. There will also be two more signs added. They also discussed, with Mr. McCarthy, the idea of having a sign that reads “no standing parking” to address the issue of people stopping to unload. He continued that making the pavement smaller was done on Dow Lane. It was done in stages to see how it would work. Mr. McCarthy first talked about the striping and the possibility of putting up temporary bollards, which were also used on Dow Lane. He pointed out that if the pavement is eventually cut out, they want to avoid making it grass because people will then use it as a crossing area. The idea is to have something that grows there so people cannot walk through. However, it has to be something that will grow low so it does not block sight at the intersection.

Chair Mikolaities pointed out the property line for the condominiums on the plan.

Chief Walsh stated that the two parking signs will be there as an obstacle to keep people from pulling off. He will also look into having an extra sign about “no standing parking” to prevent people from unloading. He continued that Mr. McCarthy is going to install bollards at the entrance to the parking lot to define the entrance and exit. If the entrance to Perkins Road is narrower, it will not be as inviting or easy. Vehicles will continue to move forward, which will

push them past the business. Also, if there is no standing parking, it will open it up for people who are walking because there will be fewer vehicles sitting. He noted that the bollards are temporary and are made of rubber. It is not going to damage anyone's car but it will discourage people from driving in and out.

Member Abrams commented that this addresses the intersection but that is not the extent of the committee.

Chief Walsh explained it addresses the safety concerns, starting in this location, and moving down Perkins Road. This will discourage a lot of vehicles from coming onto Perkins Road from Ocean Boulevard.

Larry Rocha stated that this is a good idea because the turn at that intersection is dangerous, especially for people who are walking from the beach because they do not always go to the crosswalk. A lot of people are crossing in this area. He pointed out that what he has noticed, more than loading and unloading in that area, is loading and unloading in front of the Dunes Hotel on Ocean Boulevard. That is even more dangerous.

Chief Walsh stated this is a challenge because it is a common thing that has been going on. Also, there is going to be a challenge with the Jenness State Beach parking lot design being changed this year. There are going to be a lot of changes right out on Ocean Boulevard, which will fall under the Police Department and enforcement. He is trying to work with the State Parks Manager on how her staff and the Police Department can all work together.

Mr. Rocha pointed out the area of concern on the plan, for the committee, for vehicles loading and unloading on Ocean Boulevard.

Speaking to Member Abrams, Chair Mikolaities noted that the committee has discussed, and the Selectmen are pursuing, opening up some type of conversation and agreement with the State. The committee will be making recommendations to the Selectmen that will perhaps help them with their negotiations with the State. There are some things that are under the State jurisdiction, such as the operation of the park.

Member Abrams asked how receptive the State is in doing anything based on the town's recommendations.

Chief Walsh stated he has always found them to be receptive to suggestions from the select board.

Vice-Chair Westover noted that the committee is addressing the intersection but they will also address west of the Dunes rear lot to Big Rock Road. Maybe at the next meeting, the committee can discuss that based upon the proposed ideas for the area closer to the intersection. She continued that once people commit to turning onto Perkins Road, there is no way for them to turn around if congestion starts to develop on Perkins Road. Their only option is to go west on

Perkins. She thinks they have to talk about how to deal with that and evaluate it in real time during the summer. Some of the ideas may not be as mitigating for the traffic as it is hoped to be.

Mr. Rocha noted that he lives on Perkins Road and has been observing this for fifteen years. The Surf Shop and other businesses that have opened have increased the flow of traffic on Perkins Road tenfold. He does not think that making that area narrower will have any effect on cars coming up that road. It will make the corner safer but it will not really avoid cars coming up. The Beach Committee has looked at this issue for the past five years and there are tons of problems.

Speaking to Mr. Rocha, Member Bellino asked his thoughts on what might help alleviate the issues.

Mr. Rocha commented that making the road a one-way might be a solution. He continued there are only twenty-one parking spots on Perkins Road. The only way to solve the issues, with Jenness Beach being right there, is to eliminate those twenty-one spots. He pointed out that making the spots "resident only" does not alleviate people from having to turn around and come back.

Member Abrams pointed out that even if there is no parking, people will still be driving down and having to turn in someone's yard.

Chair Mikolaities stated that getting rid of those twenty-one spaces does not mean those people are not coming to Rye. The people will just park at the other end of Perkins Road or on other side roads.

Mr. Rocha stated it is really a matter of deterring people from parking illegally. The deterrence's the town has now, are not effective. He thinks a couple of signs stating that the car will be towed for parking might help deter that.

Member Bellino stated that he sees why it might seem like a plausible solution to take out the twenty-one spaces. However, at the end of the day there are still cars coming out of the Jenness State Beach area. There will still be cars driving down Perkins to find parking.

Chair Mikolaities commented that even making the street one-way will not help because there are other side roads they will go down.

Member Nelson pointed out that they are just going to take another road to get to Perkins going the right way.

Member Bellino stated that they know the traffic is coming from Ocean Boulevard west on Perkins. He noted that one of the residents mentioned that there is also a lot of traffic coming in from west to east. He asked if this is an issue.

Mr. Rocha confirmed.

Chair Mikolaities pointed out that Ryan McGill mentioned this at the last meeting. The locals are going down Perkins from Central to drop off their kids for camps or go to the Surf Shop.

Chief Walsh pointed out that following the litter trail, the majority gets dumped on Love Lane from cars coming and going. The cars are travelling that path through Perkins Road.

Speaking to Vice-Chair Westover and Mr. Rocha, Member Bellino asked if they concur that there is a good amount of traffic from the west going east that they have to contend with.

Mr. Rocha replied not as much but yes.

Vice-Chair Westover replied yes. She continued that after a while it is difficult to discern what east bound traffic was originally west bound traffic. In the frenzy of the late morning or afternoon, it is hard to discern. In actuality, it is all just chaos.

Member Abrams stated it has to be handled in components; deferring some of the cars that would normally be going down Perkins with signs saying “additional parking two miles down”; modification of the intersection on a temporary basis to see how it goes; and discussion with the State to see if there is the possibility of a gate to keep people going further north.

Referring to the ideas discussed with the Public Works Director, Member Nelson stated she thinks they are good solutions to try to make it less attractive to go down Perkins.

Chief Walsh noted there are five businesses in one spot; pizza place, beach parking, food and beverage, surf lessons, rentals and camp. There is also a restaurant and a motel. It is all legal and permitted; however, there are a lot of functions in one area.

VI. Chief Walsh Update to the Committee

- **To be addressed at next meeting**

VII. Action items for next meeting

- Chief Walsh to provide the committee with copies of the parking ordinance and will give an update on Perkins Road.
- The committee will discuss calming factors past the Dune’s lot up the rest of Perkins Road.
- The committee will discuss the idea of a designated loading zone.
Chief Walsh is not a fan of this idea because if it is restricted to one or two cars, it will end up being five cars. The residents of Perkins Road have made it clear what they are

dealing with and that should be eliminated. If loading and unloading is going to happen, the State should be providing that inside the parking lot.
Vice-Chair Westover agreed with Chief Walsh.

VIII. Other Business

- **None**

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, March 28th, 6:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Adjournment

Motion by Doug Abrams to adjourn at 5:43 p.m. Seconded by John Bellino. All in favor.

**A copy of the Tighe and Bond Parking Assessment Report and the Beach Committee Report are available for review in the Selectmen's Office, Rye Town Hall.*

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Voting Members Present: Chairman Gregg Mikolaities, Vice-Chair Mary Westover, Secretary John Bellino, and Karin Nelson

Non-voting members Present: Selectman Keriann Roman and Police Chief Kevin Walsh.

Also Present: Jim and Joan Cassin, 17 Perkins Road and Ryan McGill, 21 Perkins Road.

I. Call to Order

Chair Mikolaities called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

The members of the committee introduced themselves.

III. Review Committee Charge

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

Charge to the Committee

- 1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.**
- 2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.**

- 3. Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.**

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

IV. Review and approval of March 21, 2019 minutes

The following correction was noted:

- Page 3, 2nd paragraph should read: **Member Abrams commented that this addresses the intersection but that is not the intent of the committee.**

Motion by Karin Nelson to approve the minutes of March 21, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Mary Westover. All in favor.

V. Update from Selectman Roman

Selectman Roman stated that the Selectmen will be having a joint work session on April 8th at 5:30 p.m., before their regularly scheduled meeting, with police, fire, DPW, and the Beach Committee. The meeting is being held to work on a plan to get additional cooperation from the State. The Perkins Road/Ocean Boulevard intersection will be a part of the discussion. She asked that a member from the committee be present at the work session.

VI. Discuss Perkins/Rt 1A intersection sketch Chief Walsh update to the Commission

Chief Walsh explained that he and Chair Mikolaities met with Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director, to review the intersection of Perkins Road and Ocean Boulevard. Perkins Road is an extra wide intersection, which is more inviting for vehicles. Some of the comments have been about the flow of traffic that consistently travels Perkins Road. There are also the challenges of vehicles loading and unloading on Perkins Road and turning around in driveways. He continued that they discussed looking at the boundary lines to see how it can be improved. One side of the road has a commercial property with five businesses, which has a lot of activity; however, it is not defined as to where cars exit and enter. Also, the parking is not regulated. He noted they discussed the idea of putting in posts (bollards) on Perkins Road, along the Dunes Hotel, to better define the entrance and exit. If the temporary bollards are put in, on the left side of the white line on town property, it would make a pathway for pedestrians walking up to the intersection.

Vice-Chair Westover clarified that pedestrians would be walking on the south side of Perkins Road but on the inside of the bollards.

Chief Walsh confirmed. He continued that the purpose of the bollards is to define how vehicles will enter and exit the property of the Dunes Hotel, especially in the area of the rear parking and pizza restaurant. This area is the biggest challenge because cars have to pull straight in and back out. He noted that he still needs to meet with the owners of the surf shop and Mrs. Leary to

review this idea. He stated that posts were put at the end of Dow Lane intersecting with Washington Road. People were making improper turns because this is an extra wide intersection. Also, people were not stopping at the stop sign at the end of Dow Lane. The temporary posts were put in to narrow the travel lanes to help improve those driving behaviors, which seems to be working. Mr. McCarthy made it more permanent by taking the pavement out, putting in permanent markers, filling in with gravel and moving the stop sign over. Chief Walsh explained they could try this idea for this year at Perkins Road and see how it works. He will defer to the expertise of Mr. McCarthy and Chair Mikolaities on whether the pavement should be taken out to be made more defined. He noted that if the pavement is taken out and made all dirt or grass, it will still not stop people from walking across to Jenness State Beach without going to the crosswalk. The committee will need to discuss this further when they discuss a long-term plan.

Chief Walsh stated the town has most of the posts already available. He will be ordering a few more with some other pieces that are needed. (He presented a photo of the bollards to the committee for review.)

Vice-Chair Westover asked if the bollards would be placed every 6ft.

Chief Walsh replied that this is what Mr. McCarthy stated he would like to see, based on the width of a car. He pointed out that if a vehicle hits one, it should not damage the car because the bollard is made of rubber (plastic). The bollard will bend over and pop right back up.

Chair Mikolaities stated the committee has three weeks to come up with a draft report. One of the things to address is “short-term” and “long-term”. The thought is that the bollards are short-term with little to no cost to the town. They can see how it goes this year. The white line will be restriped and there will be two new “no parking” signs. He noted there will still be the wider pavement but there will be two signs and the striping will be different. The committee can see how that works this year. There was also discussion about the committee going back to the Selectmen at the end of the summer to go over what they observed over the season. He stated this will cover the first couple of hundred feet of Perkins Road with minimal impact to the businesses. He noted that if the committee makes the recommendation to the Selectmen, and they agree to cut the pavement out, it will take some coordination with the State.

Vice-Chair Westover asked if the striping will be done by public works this spring.

Chief Walsh confirmed.

Member Bellino asked if they are still considering the electronic sign for the short-term plan.

Chief Walsh confirmed. The sign is usually set up just after the crosswalk going south. (He pointed out the location on the map for the committee.) The sign will be used to alert drivers when the lot is full at Jenness Beach.

Vice-Chair Westover asked how cars will turn around to go north at that point.

Chief Walsh replied the cars will keep going south.

Vice-Chair Westover asked if the northbound traffic will have the same signage.

Chief Walsh replied no. However, he has been in discussions with the State Parks Manager about having their staff close off the lots when they are full with someone waving traffic through.

Vice-Chair Westover noted that when Jenness is full, the vehicles will be waived on and the cars can then go to Perkins to take a left to go to the Dunes lot.

Chief Walsh commented that situation will always exist, as long as that business is there. They put up a sign when the lot is full. He is going to ask the staff at the Dunes lot if they can put the sign up closer to where the telephone pole is located so it is more visible.

Member Bellino stated there will still be the challenge with cars travelling from south to north. When Jenness is full, they might still be motivated to take a left onto Perkins. His hope was that there would be a sign there so they would not take that left turn and continue to Wallis State Beach.

Chief Walsh commented that they have a limited amount of lettering that can be on the sign. He will have to think about how the sign can be managed. The wording will have to be simplistic.

There was some discussion on possible wording on the signs for when the lot(s) are full. There was also some discussion on labeling Jenness and Wallis lots "A" and "B" which would have to be discussed with the State.

VII. Potential Solutions Discussion

Chair Mikolaities stated that he will start writing a draft report for the next meeting. He will send it out to the committee a few days before in order for the members to have time to read it.

Discussion on the area from the Dunes to Big Rock Road:

Vice-Chair Westover stated that the proposals for the intersection will be very helpful for the intersection and will help on Perkins Road somewhat. However, no matter what is done, there will always be vehicular traffic going east and west on Perkins. That has to be addressed, in addition to the pedestrian and bicycle traffic. This is what brought her to the Board of Selectmen originally. She would like the committee to continue to discuss the rest of the street and how it is impacted. She noted that the committee has been charged with considering "unintended consequences". The committee is burdened with that and rightfully so. She would not want to wish what happens on Perkins on any other streets in the neighborhood. However, the reality is that Perkins Road has been burdened with unintended consequences for a number of years or even decades. She pointed out that this has been going on for a long time. It has been brought to the Board of Selectmen for years with no results. She is delighted that they are now making

some progress and everyone is committed to trying to make it better. She reiterated this has been a long standing issue on Perkins.

Chief Walsh submitted copies of the parking ordinance to the committee members. Referring to the ordinance, he stated there is no parking on the north side of Perkins Road from Ocean Boulevard to Big Rock. The traffic is driving back and forth looking for parking. He suggested that they make the entire north side of Perkins “no parking” from Ocean Boulevard up to Central Road.

Vice-Chair Westover pointed out that right now, there is “no parking on pavement” up to Bernard and then it’s “no parking”. It is then silent, with regards to parking, from Big Rock to Central.

Chief Walsh stated it is silent on both sides from Big Rock to Central. He suggested that they make all of Perkins the same; “no parking” on the north and “no parking on the pavement” on the south side going all the way down.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that she thinks this is going to compound the issues on Perkins.

Chair Mikolaities stated he is going to bring this back to the word “safety”. He is now hearing from people who know that he is on this committee. They are saying that any parking that is displaced on Perkins is going to go into other neighborhoods, such as Big Rock and McLaughlin. He noted that the committee is a “safety committee”. They are not a “parking committee”.

Chief Walsh explained he is focusing on the two fire hydrants and keeping Perkins Road the same all the way to Central Road. The challenge is going to be Maple Avenue and McLaughlin.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that from Bernard up to Big Rock there is no parking allowed on the south side of Perkins Road. She continued that in the other area, there are cars going east and west. There are pedestrians going east and west. There is “no parking on pavement” on the south side. The reality is, when the car doors open, they are on pavement so it is an obstruction to the flow of traffic. This is part of the safety issue. There are people trying to walk against the traffic, going back and forth to the beach. People can walk on the right-of-way on the north side but on the south side there is no place to go to go against the traffic.

Member Nelson pointed out that Ocean Boulevard is the same with anyone opening their car door. That is a safety issue all the way down the corridor. She does not think this is something that can be changed.

Chair Mikolaities stated that “safety” to him is speed, sight distance, turnaround, illegal parking and obstruction. These are some of the things the committee has talked about. He asked if any of the twenty-one parking spaces on Perkins are causing safety issues.

Vice-Chair Westover replied that they are all causing a safety issue. People are driving erratically on Perkins Road to gain access to those spots. Compounding that with traffic going

east and west, pedestrians and people turning around causes safety issues. She pointed out that this is why she originally asked to have the parking eliminated on Perkins Road to allow for safe passage for everyone. She continued that she understands that it is not a popular suggestion to strip twenty-one spaces out. She also understands there are unintended consequences. She is not suggesting they lay this pain on anyone else. However, the reality is this is a big problem. She believes when the spots were designated, the town did not have the escalation of people that it does now. That was back in the 50's.

Ryan McGill, 21 Perkins Road, pointed out that the designation of parking was done when all of the lots, that now have homes on that side of Perkins, were all parking lots. He noted that if the town gets rid of parking on Maple, Old Beach and Perkins, the Town of Rye, in the Jenness Beach District, is providing zero public parking.

Vice-Chair Westover stated she has been on Perkins for forty-five years. There was never a problem on the street until the escalation in traffic had compounded to where it is a problem. There is so much going on in that area that the parking seems like the most natural thing to eliminate to calm it down and to allow for safe passage for everybody.

Mr. McGill asked how it would change safe passage unless the residents are willing to allow for a sidewalk in their front yards. He asked if people are going to walk in the dirt.

Selectman Roman stated that in her mind Perkins Road is a whole different scenario than the rest of town because of the businesses and Jenness Beach. What the select board is struggling with, is there are unintended consequences but the Selectmen have to make the tough decisions. She does not want the committee to worry about that aspect. If there is a tough decision to be made, or there are two options, the select board is going to be the ones that have to make it. She does not want to push cars parking on other roads either; however, other roads are not Perkins Road. Perkins has a lot of pedestrian traffic, vehicles, U-turns and people turning around in driveways because of the unique situation there. Perkins is a very unique road and it has to be treated a bit differently. The Selectmen are the ones that are going to have to figure out how to deal with it. She does not want someone getting hurt at Perkins. She is very frustrated because the residents on Perkins have been bringing this up for a really long time. The committee needs to keep in mind that whatever happens on Perkins is not going to happen in the rest of the town. Perkins is going to be treated a little bit differently because it has to be. She commented that the first step might be to see what can be done to minimize the safety issues.

The commission reviewed the safety concerns.

Safety Concerns:

- **Speed – (Especially cars speeding up to get into a parking spot that has opened up)**
- **Sight distance**
- **Turning around**
- **Illegal parking**
- **Obstructions**

- **U-turns**
- **Pedestrian conflicts**
- **Stacking**

Member Nelson asked how they change the behavior. A lot of the safety issues are uncontrolled behavior.

Vice-Chair Westover pointed out that if the twenty-one spots went away on Perkins, people would not be going down Perkins for that reason. The turning around and erratic driving, in that section of Perkins, is directly related to the parking spots there.

Member Nelson pointed out there is also a parking lot that people need to turn for. There will still be vehicles turning down Perkins for the parking lot.

Member Bellino stated that even if the spots are taken out, people are still going to go down Perkins and “pop” a U-turn. He noted that having the parking on both sides of Ocean Boulevard does slow down the traffic. He agrees that Perkins is a unique situation. He calls it an “expressway” because it is so wide and long. He wonders if removing the parking is taking away some of the calming that might slow down some of the traffic, particularly cars coming west to east.

Member Nelson stated she drives down Perkins daily. She probably drives faster now with no cars parked there, then in the summer. If parking is taken away, people will drive faster so that will cause more of a safety issue. She thinks that getting the area closest to Ocean Boulevard, (200ft), is going to really help the rest of Perkins.

Vice-Chair Westover commented it will definitely have a positive impact. She just does not know if it is going to eliminate people from going down Perkins as significantly as one would hope.

Chief Walsh noted that if the wide intersection is brought into line with other intersections in town, it will not be as inviting from Ocean Boulevard. By the time people realize it is there, they are going to be past it.

Speaking to Chief Walsh, Chair Mikolaities asked if a recommendation to the Selectmen should be to hire a retired officer to help control that area.

Chief Walsh stated it is difficult to find personnel to do those types of tasks. He noted that the parking enforcement hours have been increased over the years, with additional parking attendants for more coverage for the parking. He also staggers the parking shifts so there is extra coverage during busier times.

James Cassin, 17 Perkins Road, stated that at a previous meeting someone had talked about the speed bumps that are on Recreation Road. That might be something for Perkins. Someone coming down from Big Rock would have to slow down.

Joann Cassin, 17 Perkins Road, stated she has seen cars backing up going 30 miles per hour to get a free spot on Perkins.

Chief Walsh agreed to speak with Dennis McCarthy about the speed bump idea and if this is something that could be managed on Perkins.

Vice-Chair Westover suggested putting up signs that say “slow” or “caution”. Going down Central, there is an elevation adjustment just after Bernard going down Perkins. If someone is going at a “good clip”, they are not going to see someone walking right after that bump.

Mr. McGill noted that he already has a sign in his front yard that says “caution”.

Chair Mikolaities suggested that a recommendation could be that the Selectmen appropriate funds for traffic engineering services to look at some of the issues, such as signage, speed and sight distance. He noted that the engineers would want to study the traffic in July and August so this would be for changes for the future.

The committee agreed to include this as one of the recommendations.

Member Bellino suggested putting rubber signs down the center of Perkins Road that say “slow pedestrians”; much like the ones in the middle of the crosswalk at Wallis Road Extension.

Chair Mikolaities pointed out that the road is only 21ft wide. It is not wide enough.

The committee agreed the signs are effective on Ocean Boulevard; however, the width of Perkins limits this.

Committee agreed with Chair Mikolaities that the recommendation of a traffic engineer should be included in the report.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that sight lines from driveways has been an issue, especially on the south side. She asked if they are still entertaining the idea of blocking off the driveways on the south side to allow the residents to go in and out. She noted there are only two driveways. (She pointed to the driveways on the plan for the committee.)

The committee agreed to add this to the long-term solutions. After some more discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that the engineer look at crosswalks and sidewalks for safe passage ways.

Recommendations for the report:

- **Short-term recommendations:**
 - Bollards (temporary)
 - Pavement striping
 - Added “no parking” signs
 - Electronic message board, controlled by Police Department, in front of the Dunes Hotel indicating that the Jenness lot is full or that “both lots are full” (lot on Perkins). It will not individually address the private business lot on Perkins Road.
 - Committee to observe how the changes go over the summer and reconvene one more time at the end of summer to report back to the Selectmen.

- **Long-term recommendations:**
 - The committee agreed to add comments that any future (final) changes should be vetted by an engineer before being made permanent; for work such as removal of pavement.
 - Traffic engineer to look at permanent solutions for issues regarding speed, sight distance and signage. The engineer should also take into consideration crosswalks and sidewalks for safe passage.

VIII. Action items for next meeting

- Chair Mikolaities to work on a draft report for the next meeting. The committee members will be emailed a copy of the report a few days before the meeting in order to prepare comments about the draft for discussion.

- Chief Walsh will bring an update to the committee on his discussion with the Police Chiefs of Wells and Ogunquit about ideas they have found that work in their towns with regard to similar situations.

- Committee members to review the current parking ordinance, which was handed out by Chief Walsh.

IX. Public Input

James Cassin thanked the committee for their work on the committee. He also suggested the idea of a possible exit for cars at the back of the parking lot onto Perkins Road.

Chief Walsh was not sure this idea would be possible due to boundary lines and traffic constraints.

- **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 4th, 6:00 p.m., Rye Public Library

Motion by John Bellino to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Mary Westover. All in favor.
Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

RYE PERKINS ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Voting Members Present: Chairman Gregg Mikolaities, Vice-Chair Mary Westover, Secretary John Bellino, and Karin Nelson

Non-voting members Present: Selectman Keriann Roman, Beach Committee Member Steve Hillman and Police Chief Kevin Walsh (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

Also Present: Bill Lowney, 2175 Ocean Blvd.

I. Call to Order

Chair Mikolaities called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The members of the committee introduced themselves.

III. Review Committee Charge

Rye Perkins Road Safety Committee Charge

Charge to the Committee

- 1. Become familiar with Perkins Road and the concerns of its residents regarding beach going motor vehicle traffic in the summertime as it poses a safety risk to residents and pedestrians to include cars speeding, turning around in driveways, executing unsafe U-turns, and parking adjacent to fire hydrants and driveways resulting in unsafe conditions.**
- 2. Meet as necessary to review the Rye Beach Committee's annual reports, recommendations and meeting minutes; Town ordinances and the Tighe and Bond Ocean Boulevard Parking Assessment Study as a basis for providing recommendations and suggestions to the Selectmen for making Perkins Road safer during the summer months, taking into account consideration of any unintended consequences, e.g. a total ban on parking could push parking into other residential neighborhoods and could affect businesses.**

3. **Produce and present a final report to the Selectmen by April 30 2019, allowing time for the Board to analyze it, develop next steps and implement them prior to beginning of the summer season.**

The Rye Perkins Road Committee shall follow the Rules of Procedure for Committees established by the Board of Selectmen.

IV. Review and approval of March 28, 2019 minutes

Motion by John Bellino to approve the minutes of March 28, 2019 as presented. Seconded by Karin Nelson. All in favor.

V. Update from Selectman Roman

Selectman Roman noted that the select board is meeting with NH DOT in a non-public session on Friday, April 5th to discuss Ocean Boulevard and to see what kind of help they will give the town. She also noted that Route 1A is a right-of-way and DOT has an easement from the center line extending out 25ft on either side. DOT is not in charge of Jenness Beach; however, they would deal with turning into the State Parks or onto Perkins (traffic flow on Rte. 1A). She asked the members if they have any items they would like her to discuss with DOT.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that they would have to work with DOT with regard to the wide mouth onto Perkins Road (intersection of Perkins and Ocean).

The committee agreed that Selectman Roman should bring this to their attention at the meeting.

Chair Mikolaities stated that it is important that the State get personnel there on the weekends to help with directing traffic. Enforcement seems to be the biggest issue.

Vice-Chair Westover asked if DOT and the State Parks would collaborate in terms of personnel issues.

Selectman Roman reminded the board that the select board is holding a joint planning session with the State and DOT would be a part of that meeting. The meeting with just DOT is specifically for the RV (campers) issue because that is what passed at Town Meeting. She would like to bring up some issues to DOT, in advance of the work session, so they can start to think about solutions.

Chair Mikolaities agreed that personnel would be more of a State Parks issue. He commented that DOT handles striping, maintenance, traffic control and signage.

Vice-Chair Westover asked what the intent is with the RV's.

Member Hillman stated that the Beach Committee's thought was if they could get the RV's to park somewhere other than on the crowded stretch of Ocean Boulevard, it would help with the chaos. There is stress in that area. Part of it is the size of the RV's and the amount of parking that they take up. The warrant article that was passed was to get the conversation started with DOT to see what they can or can't do.

Selectman Roman pointed out that the restriction is going to be for a certain size. The intent is to not prohibit Class A campers because they can fit into a regular parking spot. The size would be for RV's 25ft and up (Class C and above).

Chair Mikolaities suggested that speed limits, signage and traffic control devices be brought up to DOT.

Selectman Roman commented that a bicycle group had requested signage making it clear that bicycles have full use of the lane. That is not the town's jurisdiction so this will also be brought up to DOT at the meeting. She asked the members of the committee to email her if they come up with other things that should be discussed with DOT.

- **Joint Work Session with the Selectmen, State Parks, and N.H. DOT will be held on Monday, April 8th, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall**
(A member of the Beach Committee and Perkins Safety Road Committee are asked to attend.)

Note: *Selectman Roman left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.*

VI. Update from Chief Walsh

Police Chief Walsh stated that he spoke with Ryan McGill (*Surf Shop*) and Mrs. Leary (*owner of property located at 2281 Ocean Blvd*) about the parking at the business property and in the parking lot. They also discussed the entrance and exit to the parking lot and business locations. (Chief Walsh presented a plan to the committee showing Mrs. Leary's parking expectations for her property, as was stated to him. He also reviewed on the plan the location of where he plans to install the rubber posts that were discussed at a previous meeting. The location of the posts will prevent cars from backing up into a public right-of-way. It is also going to eliminate cars from stopping and "stacking up" for unloading and drop-offs.) He noted that in the proposed location for the posts are five parking spaces that have been used for years. If the posts are put in place, those spaces cannot go straight in. It will have to be angled parking. Cars parked in these spaces are backing into the streets. The recommendation being made now, is to eliminate that in order to eliminate the congestion in that area. The posts will also help to eliminate the "temporary parking", "quick loading and unloading", "drop-off" area and "stacking" of vehicles for when the lot is full.

Vice-Chair Westover pointed out that there is a pathway in front of the building, which Ryan McGill noted they were required to have. She always thought the cars were parking right up at the building.

Chief Walsh explained that when they went to the Planning Board for a change of use, they were required to keep a barrier in front of where the vehicles park. The Planning Board wanted a pedestrian walkway to prevent vehicles from going right up to the building. (The business building at 2281 Ocean Blvd has apartments on the second floor, a pizza restaurant, a store and surfboard rentals.)

Vice-Chair Westover noted that there is activity going on at the back of the building in addition to cars going in and out.

Member Hillman stated that most people who are renting surfboards are taking them across the street, rather than loading them into a car.

Vice-Chair Westover commented it is during the times they are loading their trucks for summer surf camps.

Chief Walsh stated that a recommendation could be to have the building department and planning look at the parking plan for this property. It is going to be a challenge because it has been there for so long. He noted that they are charging for parking in front of the building, which is increasing the congestion in front of the businesses. It is also eliminating the parking for people who want to go into those businesses.

After some more discussion, Vice-Chair Westover commented that there seems to be no rules down there. People are kind of doing what they want to do.

Chief Walsh pointed out that the area and parking is not defined. If it is wide open, it is more inviting.

Referring back to the draft and the recommendations, Member Nelson stated that she does not remember them saying the south side for the sidewalk. She thought they discussed the north side.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that because the crosswalk is in front of the Dunes, it would make more sense for people to come down the south side to get to the crosswalk. She also thinks that the town does not need to put in a sidewalk. There should be a passageway provided for pedestrians. It does not have to be as elaborate as a sidewalk. It could just be the shoulder of the road, which exists on the north side but doesn't for the twenty-one parking spots on the south side of Perkins Road. She would like to encourage the Selectmen to look at this from a safety standpoint and not a parking standpoint. From a safety standpoint, they may want to reevaluate the parking ordinance on Perkins Road to align it with the current conditions that were not occurring back in the 50's when those spots were put in place. Parking is being allowed on Perkins Road because it has always been there. She would encourage this committee, the Beach Committee and the Board of Selectmen to reevaluate that and align it with current conditions to make it more relevant.

Chair Mikolaities asked if this recommendation is covered under #1.

Vice-Chair Westover stated she is pushing towards eliminating the twenty-one spots on Perkins Road.

Member Nelson pointed out that this can't be done until a study is done.

Vice-Chair Westover replied it could be indicated that this is an option.

Member Bellino stated that he agrees with Member Nelson. He understands what is being said and would be open to it but a traffic study would have to be done.

Member Hillman stated that the Beach Committee discussed this. The committee came to the conclusion that if some other changes could be put in place, maybe it will help and not be such a big problem. The changes should be put in place first to see the effect. If it helps a lot, then it can be done because there are controls in place.

Member Bellino stated that the committee has made some good recommendations that will hopefully alleviate some of the pain the residents on Perkins are feeling. He would like to see what happens there. He would also like to see a traffic study, taking into consideration that there might be an issue with those twenty-one parking spots. An expert would be able to say whether there is an issue there and how it can be solved. He reiterated that he would like to see how the first recommendations work and have a professional say whether those spots work.

Vice-Chair Westover stated that she does not want everyone to lose sight of the fact that this whole thing is about safety. The safety issues that were addressed with the Board of Selectmen initially were situations that were occurring from the Dunes lot up to Big Rock Road, more specifically Bernard. That is the "safety bubble". Stuff is happening in this area that is really not safe.

Member Bellino asked if she thinks it is all associated with those twenty-one cars.

Vice-Chair Westover replied not those specific twenty-one cars. It's the other cars that are "circling around" who are attracted onto Perkins Road because they know there is free parking on that side of the street.

Chief Walsh stated that he agrees with Member Nelson and Member Bellino that the data is needed to show exactly what is being indicated. If the select board has that information in front of them it will be a "no brainer" for them.

Vice-Chair Westover pointed out that she is not opposed to cars going up and down Perkins Road and parking if that works. However, in the last five years, it has become very uncomfortable and too unsafe to have all of that activity on that small strip of the street. It is because of the escalation in vehicle traffic and also vehicles parking further into the neighborhood, which accentuates the pedestrian traffic on Perkins Road.

Member Hillman stated that the Beach Committee has been in place for five years. The committee is getting traction so there are other things that are happening within the town that is trying to mitigate a lot of these issues. The town is really starting to take a hard look and starting to make headway. They have to see how it works. It might work great and everyone will be happy. He commented the town has to start somewhere because there is nothing right now.

Chair Mikolaities noted that is why they have short term and long term recommendations. The short term does not cost the town anything and is a week's worth of work. However, they cannot lose sight that there needs to be a Plan B.

After discussion, it was agreed that something concerning those twenty-one spaces could be added under "Safety Concerns and Observations" in the draft. Vice-Chair Westover will work on the wording for that addition.

Chief Walsh stated that he met with the Ogunquit Police Chief and looked at some of their parking. Ogunquit has four miles of beach. They have town parking lots to put cars in. Their main focus is usually the nightlife like Hampton. When the beaches clear out, they get the people heading to the bars which creates parking issues. A lot of the parking is in town. There is no parking allowed on any of the streets leading down to the beach. He is going to meet again with the Ogunquit Chief to discuss their intersections. He is also going to make a trip to the Town of Wells to see if their streets are all no parking down to the beaches. If that is the case and is best for safety, then this might be able to be done in Rye over time. He noted that they will also need to go inland about a mile with no parking on all the side roads. They have to be sure that they are not pushing the problem into someone else's neighborhood. He stated that he has worked for Rye for twenty-four years and there has always been parking there. The congestion has changed over the years for a number of reasons. He noted that he is going to be meeting with the York Police Chief to learn more about the electronic parking ticket system, which will eliminate handwritten parking tickets.

VII. Draft Letter to Selectmen

Throughout the meeting, the committee reviewed the draft letter to the Selectmen prepared by Chair Mikolaities.

The committee suggested the following revisions:

"Tasks Completed" add:

- **Took input from the public.**
- **Members of the committee, as individuals, conducted site surveys of Perkins Road.**

Other additions to draft:

- **Re-word the last sentence in the first paragraph, to indicate the section of the road; *"from the Dunes to Bernard"***
- **"Vehicles backing up onto Perkins Road" – describe that a little bit more in terms of speed. Suggested – *"unsafe backing to find a parking space"***
- **Vehicles stopping to unload on both sides of street.**

- **State of N.H. Park System** – revise to say “*N.H. State Parks needs to look at their staffing levels to make sure they are adequate to handle the facilities*”. Jenness State Beach is one of their busiest spots.
- **Term of impact** – Memorial Day to Labor Day, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

“Short Term Recommendations” add:

- Along with “no parking” signs add signs for “no loading/unloading”.
- Have planning and building department review parking in front lot at 2281 Ocean Boulevard, according to plans and files dated 7/22/2013. This area is approved for 9 spaces. Cars have been observed to be parking on Ocean Boulevard frontage.
- Stamp “no parking on pavement” all the way up to the stop sign on the south side of Perkins (Ocean Blvd to entrance to parking lot).

“Long Term Recommendations” change:

- Move recommendation #5 up to #1.

“Safety Concerns and Observations” add:

- Statement concerning the twenty-one parking spaces (to be drafted).

VIII. Public Input

Bill Lowney, 2175 Ocean Boulevard, spoke in regards to the possibility of the study looking at the spaces in front of his house on the south side of Cable Road on the corner of Ocean Boulevard.

The committee agreed that all the roads leading onto Ocean Boulevard should be included in the study.

IX. Action items for next meeting

- Vice-Chair Westover to work on and send wording regarding the twenty-one spaces to Chair Mikolaities.
- Chair Mikolaities to work on the changes for the draft. A final copy will be sent to the members before the next meeting so they may review.
- Chair Mikolaities will attend the meeting with State Parks, DOT and the Selectmen on Monday, August 8th at 5:30.
- Chief Walsh, Chair Mikolaities and Dennis McCarthy to revisit the site for finalizing plans.
- Chief Walsh will follow up with Mrs. Leary (Dunes property owner).
- **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 11th, 6:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall (second floor)

Motion by John Bellino to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Seconded by Mary Westover. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger

Attachment C

Temporary modifications to Perkins Road/Ocean
Boulevard intersection.



April 22, 2019

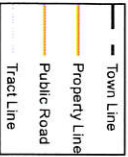
2281 Ocean Blvd

Rye, NH

1 inch = 33 Feet



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