

Town of Kennebunkport
Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee Meeting
March 18th, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM
Village Fire Station Meeting Room, 32 North Street, Kennebunkport

A meeting of the Goose Rocks Beach Advisory Committee was held on March 18th, 2024.

Members participating in person were Pam Czekanski (Chair), Barry Engel, Carol Sherman, Jon Dykstra
Member participating via Zoom were Paul Hogan, Fred Stafford, Charles Cadwell

- *Call to Order*

Ms. Czekanski called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum.

- *Approval of Minutes*

Mr. Dykstra made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11th, 2023 meeting. Ms. Sherman seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- *Post storm Update-Phoebe Scott (she/her) project manager for southern Maine with Maine DEP will be in attendance to educate members regarding the NRPA review process and share updates to section 16-A Beach Nourishment & dune restoration provisions.*

Mr. Weibley, Director of Planning & Development introduced Phoebe Scott and Alex Groblewski of the Maine DEP to explain the NRPA review process and some rule making changes in the department regarding beach restoration.

Ms. Scott, Project Manager for Southern Maine addressed the Committee and gave an overview of what the Land Bureau's responsibilities are within the DEP, and the different types of permits offered based on the level of impact.

Ms. Alex Groblewski then addressed the Committee to discuss recent rule changes to the Natural Resources Protection Act, specifically regarding biodegradable materials that can be incorporated into designs and offered to provide handouts and a link on their website to discuss the specifics of those new rules.

More specifically, Ms. Groblewski discussed the recently added section to the Permit-By-Rule requirements that now allows the use of dredge material and also allows for multiple homeowners to apply under one Permit-By-Rule.

Both Ms. Scott and Ms. Groblewski suggested contacting Maine Geological Society as they are an excellent source for methods and materials on how to preserve and restore beach resources.

A detailed discussion occurred with the audience members and those participating on Zoom asking questions of Ms. Scott and Ms. Groblewski regarding their personal circumstances and the storm damage.

Mr. Weibley thanked Ms. Scott and Ms. Groblewski for attending. Mr. Weibley noted that LD1809 has changed the state law for zoning when it comes to base flood elevation meaning specifically under the state law a municipality regardless of height restrictions have to allow for 3-feet above the base flood elevation, so whatever the base flood elevation is where your house is you can go 33-feet above that.

- *Public comments for items not on the agenda*

Mr. Wengel of Kings Highway asked if this Committee advises just on the beach or the whole community and asked specifically who he should talk to about road repair. Mr. Dykstra responded that this Committee was formed as a condition of the Beach Use Agreement and the Beach Use Ordinance whose responsibilities are defined and tend to be more beach centered but does include parking obviously as a piece of it, but roads are outside the purview of this Committee.

There were no other comments at this time.

- *Committee Reports*

- *Public Safety*

Mr. Engel noted that he has heard from several people who were upset about the town's handling of the flooding at the west end of Kings Highway during the storms and who were stranded for 5 days.

- *Natural Resources*

Mr. Hogan announced the beach cleanup day has been set for April 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the General Store and will be sending out some promotion on that. Mr. Hogan also noted they will need more help than usual this year as they could possibly do some planting of dune grass as well that day.

Mr. Dykstra gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on what the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust is working on under their Permit-By-Rule on their properties and on the town property as part of their dune restoration project.

Mr. Hogan also commented that last spring the Committee voted to ask for \$11,000 to cover the cost of dune grass plugs and due to a grant received from the Conservation Commission there is \$3,000 left over. Mr. Hogan made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the town expend \$8,500 from the beach fund in this year's current budget for this project. Mr. Stafford seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- *Communications-Kennebunkport Climate Action update*

There was no update on this agenda item at this time.

- *Old Business*

- *Beachside numbers on houses*

Ms. Sherman again asked folks to consider putting their house numbers on the beachfront side of their homes as they do on the street side to aid first responders providing location information in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager added that after Ms. Sherman's letter was sent out with very little response, she had a conversation with Fire Chief Everett who agreed to send out a letter from his department asking beachfront owners to put numbers on the oceanfront side of their homes.

- *Commercial activity on the beach*

Mr. Dykstra stated there is nothing to report at this time on this agenda item.

- *Trash subcommittee*

Ms. Czekanski stated after much discussion at previous meetings the Committee has decided to recommend the town remove the trash cans at the beach entrances this year and have a carry in/carry out policy. A brief discussion with the Committee members and audience members followed.

- *Request for handicap mat at Bartlett entrance to beach*

Mr. Dykstra stated that in response to a request for handicapped entrance to the beach at Bartlett Avenue, the town is asking the Beach Advisory Committee to take a broader look at the beach as a whole on ways to make it accessible for all. Ms. Czekanski asked if anyone would like to be part of this discussion to please contact the Committee.

Ms. Smith asked if anyone who has questions on the new waste disposal system to talk to Chris Simeoni, Director of Public Works for the town.

There was much discussion with the Committee members and members of the audience regarding removing the trash cans at the beach entrances and the effect on people who walk their dogs on the beach and the disposal of dog waste bags.

Mr. Engel seconded Ms. Czekanski's previous suggestion to remove the trash cans at the beach entrances. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of Ms. Czekanski's motion.

- *New Business*

- *Plover request for 2024*

Ms. Sherman made a motion to ask the town of Kennebunkport for \$4,000 to hire a volunteer shore bird coordinator for the beach this summer. Ms. Czekanski seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- *Beach cleanup April 20*

Ms. Czekanski announced the beach cleanup day is April 20th, there will be a dumpster available, and are asking volunteers to meet at 9:00 a.m. at the General Store.

7. *Next meeting date April 22*

8. *Adjournment – Meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.*