

Madison Beach and Recreation Commission

Subject to Approval

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021

**Meeting Place:** Zoom

**Members Present:** Rob Card (Chair), Mary Pat Nardino (Vice Chair), Pamela Greene and Shane Kokoruda.

**Members Absent:** Vince Dussick

**Others Present:** Scot Erskine (Director of Beach & Rec Dept.), First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons and Austin Hall (Director of Senior Services).

Rob Card called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** Pam motioned to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes and MP seconded. Rob mentioned changing an item on page two under old business. He wanted to change the minutes from saying the commission has not changed the pricing in a number of years to the commission has not changed the pricing since 2007. All members present were in favor of the minutes and the change by Rob.
- II. **Public Comments:** First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons mentioned having a couple of meetings with DEEP starting last Spring to talk about Hammonasset issues that occurred last summer due to COVID. The idea is to have a better plan going forward of how to deal with capacity during the summer months this year. She discussed the impact that the park has on the Town of Madison. She showed the commission a slide show presentation that was shown to DEEP on Monday March 1, 2021. The idea behind the presentation was to find better ways to have people access the beaches in town and at Hammonasset and do it in a safe manor especially when it comes to parking at the beach.
- III. **Chair's comments:** Rob discussed some of the points Peggy had mentioned. He mentioned looking at the beach season as a whole and not just look at the fees. He wanted tonight's meeting to be more of a brain storming session and to have the commission think of ideas that could work to suit everyone as a whole.
- IV. Directors Report
  - **Departmental updates:** Scot mentioned have the Salt Meadow Pavilion bid opening on Thursday. He stated that they got to DEEP Grant for the Bauer

walkway. He mentioned that he still has to work on West Wharf to get that set for the Spring and to satisfy DEEP with a cam permit. He talked about starting to receive job applications and applications for people who are returning from last year. Camp staff and registration was discussed.

- **Budget report:** Scot mentioned that the BOS passed the budget as it was presented to them. There is a public hearing on the budget then it will go to Finance.

V. **Old Business:** Beach Pass System and Considerations discussion: Pam put together a presentation of what the commission needs to discuss like pricing, hours, setting goals for the year, etc. There was a discussion about the goals set for the commission as to how Madison should be handling their beach passes especially when it comes to pricing. Pam's presentation for pricing was from 2018 to present. The topic of renters was brought up. There was a discussion of non-residents and the parking difficulties they possess during certain times of the year. The spacing capacity of the beaches last year and how many people allowed on the beach was discussed. Non-residents maybe getting beach passes early was discussed. There was a discussion of how the Surf Club is used. It is generally used for recreational purposes. There was a discussion of the traffic at the beaches on weekends and holidays. The parking capacity for non-residents at East and West Wharf was discussed.

VI. **New Business:** Discuss and take-action to accept donation from Madison Little League in the amount of \$6,664.00 to purchase and install left and right field sideline fencing on Jaycee Auxiliary baseball Field. The fence will help protect spectators and parents. The fencing will be permanent.

Shane motioned to accept the donation and Pam seconded. All members present were in favor. This donation needs to be approved by the BOS and BOF.

VII. **Public Comments:** None

VIII. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. Pam motioned to adjourn and Shane seconded. All members present were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristen Panzo