

Beach and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Meeting Place: Zoom

Members Present: Rob Card (Chair), MP Nardino (Vice Chair), Pamela Greene and Vince Dussich.

Members Absent: Shane Kokoruda

Others Present: Scot Erskine (Director of Beach & Recreation), First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons and Austin Hall (Senior Center Director).

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

Approval of Minutes: MP approved the March 2, 2021 minutes and Pam seconded. Pam had an item to amend. She stated that in Section 5 under Old Business in the middle of the paragraph it should say that non-residents pose difficulties throughout the year and not possess. All members present were in favor.

Public Comments: None

Chair's comments: Rob mentioned he met with Dave Anderson. Dave agreed to join either the May or June meeting. He will give a brief overview of his role, current projects. There will be a discussion on how the Beach & Recreation Department can collaborate with him. Below are the items that were brought up at the meeting last month to discuss for this meeting tonight:

1. Communication with the community and other stakeholders
2. Designated non resident parking volumes and location.
3. Rates/charges
4. Sales of passes
5. How we inspect the system, process are working

Peggy discussed that she had an operational discussion with Austin and Scot about different things that they might want to tweak or change from the previous season. She discussed one big question as to where they will be when it comes to State restrictions. There was a discussion that if on May 20 of this year or after and if the Governor lifts all restrictions then any restrictions to the beaches will be set by the Town of Madison at that point. She does not see having capacity restrictions and hopefully will not have to count everyone on the beach this summer. If Hammonasset does not have

capacity restrictions this summer that will be good and maybe the Town can follow suit with that. The staffing of lifeguards seven days a week was discussed. The staffing hours will remain the same as last summer. She mentioned having weekend staffing starting in May. The plan is to have gate attendants at East and West Wharf Beaches as long as they can find the staffing for it. Peggy talked about having a way for non-residents to come to the beaches this year. There is a plan for the Town of Madison to buy their own message boards so that they can inform the residents and non-residents of what the capacity is at the beaches. She mentioned having another public hearing for the public to inform them of what will be happening for the upcoming beach season. There was a discussion about beach passes. Non-residents have to buy them in person at the Surf Club. Residents can buy online and renew online as well.

Directors Report:

Departmental updates: Scot mentioned that a lot of summer programs are already up online to view. He said people are registering for these programs like crazy. He talked about the fields in town and how they are now open. He mentioned the bathrooms are all set and just waiting on the water company to turn on the seasonal meters. The Surf Club is a mess he said. They lost the neutral on Eversources line. The power went hay wire and ended up frying the furnace controls to the building. They had to fix that. Then because of the cold freeze any water in the pipes froze and the pipes snapped. They have holes in the ceiling and most of the fixtures are shot. Everything is trying to be replaced so that the building can be back up and running. The gardens are open he mentioned. Boat rack renewals went well he stated. A few people were questioning the boat rack price increase. The Salt Meadow Pavilion was discussed.

Budget report: Scot discussed the budget they have to work with.

Beach season data on attendance – non-resident historical data: 46 non-residential passes were sold back in 2018. There is a plan hopefully in the works to find a way to have non-residents be able to use the beaches on the weekends and make sure that there are enough spaces for them to park in so they are not having to park down the street from the beaches and then walking to the actual beaches.

Project Updates: The kayak boat launch was discussed. Scot mentioned that there are two benches that need to be installed up at Rockland at the playground. There was a discussion to re-organize the parking lot so that more cars can fit. The project for the Pickle Ball and Tennis Courts have been put on hold as of right now.

Old Business:

Parking logistics resident/non-residents discussion: Pam discussed the complexity of the whole beach pass system. She would want to simplify it for residents and non-residents. There was a discussion on how many parking spots should be available for non-residents. The pricing of the beach passes was discussed. There was a discussion on if East and West Wharf should be resident only beaches or not. There was a discussion on if non-residents should be able to buy season passes. There will be a limit as to non-resident parking on weekend and Holidays. There should be a 15% for non-resident parking spaces. The nanny passes were discussed. There was a discussion about renters and how they can get a beach pass. It would be the owner's responsibility to get the renters the daily passes so they can use the beaches.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:45pm. Vince motioned to adjourn and Pam seconded. All members present were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Panzo