



## Beach Committee Minutes of April 7, 2022

Attending: Eliza Harned, Chair; Stephanie Rein, Select Board; Damion Clements, Beach Director; Mary Ellen Kimball; Shari Stahl (secretary).

Called to order (remote meeting) at 4:15 p.m.

Public Comment: none

Beach Director Report: Damion reports that the BoS has passed the beach fees increase and the tribal rights as approved by the Beach Committee. No policy on kayak/paddlecraft racks has been developed to date. Power and lights to the gate attendants at Corn Hill and Head of the Meadow will connect internet for daily beach fees by credit card. Erosion at Ballston Beach has been severe but parking access has now been restored. Great Hollow stairs have been repaired and three new catch basins are functioning well. The jersey barrier at the private residence has been removed, the parking space is available and the homeowner has been instructed to replace vegetation. Funds have been appropriated for FY24 for rest rooms updates. ORV access at Corn Hill and Beach Point Landing are restricted to town property and residents only. Staffing for Life Guards (Head of Meadow) and Beach Office supervisors with returning employees is likely. Half of the beach attendants positions are filled. Damion would like to see the portable restrooms at all beaches put up earlier and to stay up longer in the season.

### Beach Concerns:

Beach Signs: Stephanie will be returning to the school system next month for the Farmer in the School program and can work with the Beach Committee to have students create signage. Ann states a line item for funds for signage is in the proposal to the Community Preservation Committee. This would not be available until after Annual Town Meeting but Damion says his budget can support signage material for the joint Beach Committee student project until these funds come through.

American Beach Grass Planting: Maryellen proposed organizing volunteers to restore plugs of beach grass at Great Hollow Beach. This must be done between October 15 and early April as a winter-time project. Authorization from Emily Beebe, the Conservation Agent is necessary. The Town Manager would also need to be involved and Stephanie could be the liaison for the Beach Committee concerns to both contacts. It is too late to do an April planting. Stephanie will contact Emily and invite her to the next Beach Committee meeting.

Paddlecraft Policy for Town Racks: Ann volunteered her skills as a researcher to work with Damion and Jarred (DPW) to develop proposed language for the Paddlecraft Racks.

Shorebird Monitoring: Shari observed that beach closures extend all spring, summer and fall seasons now. Shorebird monitoring is no longer under the Beach Director's oversight and now belongs to the Health/Conservation Department. Damion observed that the Parks Service oceanside closes large tracks of the beach all season and the Town doesn't have a lot of input. In the past when shorebird monitoring been under his Department, Damion had been able to talk to the Audubon about modifying some of the symbolic fencing that interns erected on town beaches. The Beach Committee would like to have Emily Beebe's input on beach closures/pet closures and balance of access for beach goers after the hatching season for shorebirds.

Approval of Minutes: Ann moved and Mary Ellen seconded to approve the minutes of February 10, 2022 as amended with Tom Bow's corrections. Unanimously approved.

Future meetings: Mary Ellen proposed having an in-person meeting. The Town is still encouraging remote meetings for the efficiency of town administrators and personnel. Since the Committee is hoping to have Emily and Stephanie as well as Damion in attendance, we agreed to defer an in-person meeting until after our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:15pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Approved 5/19/22

