

Beach commission Minutes- Meeting of 12/10/2013

Attending: Rian Wilkinson, Bill Seiple, John Crimmins, Henry Pine, Gary Lapidas, Dave Leys, Will Cronin

1. Open Meeting at 4:32

2. Approved minutes of 11/12/2013 - No changes

3. Kayak Racks

After Discussion, the Commission made the following recommendation for kayak rack construction 2014.

****Existing racks- (5) Large, 6-bay racks. Total units- 30.**

a. Recommendations: Construct (1) large, 6-bay rack, and (2) 12-bay (24 units) kayak only racks- Total units 30. It was felt that this option was more efficient than building (5) 6-bay racks.

b. Total spaces existing and proposed – 60. **This is, approximately, the same number of individually rented boat moorings. It was suggested that we observe how this number functions before adding any more units.**

c. Mooring holders- It was recommended that any mooring holders, who were not selected in the original kayak rack drawing, (estimated 4-6) be given priority on the new units. Other mooring holders, who did not place their names in the original drawing, will be placed on the waiting list.

d. Fees- The town could charge 2 different fees, based on the size of the rental space, if desired.

e. Location – It was recommended that (1) 6-bay rack, and (1) 12 bay kayak rack be located at the Navy beach. Total spaces 18.

f. Non-use of racks- It was observed that some rented racks went unused in 2013. It was recommended that a town employee (not the harbormaster) monitor the spaces and have the town contact individuals who reserved, but did not use, the space. This is the same procedure used for the town moorings.

Anyone who, currently, has a full size space would retain that space.

4. Final Recommendation Third – Navy Beach- this list was compiled after several month of discussion.

A. Supervision- A full time supervisor should be hired to assist in boat launching, parking, and, in general, beach supervision.

B. Navy Entrance. The entrance to the Navy lot should be moved. There is heavy road erosion at the present location and entering/exciting is difficult due to the convergence of two roads on the North side of the lot. Bill Seiple felt that a mid-lot entrance, near the utility pipes, would save spaces and allow more efficient access. Will Cronin said he will meet with the MDPW during the spring to confirm on a location. A crosswalk also is recommended.

C. Lifeguards- Due to recent popularity, it is recommended that the Navy Beach be protected by a lifeguard crew. There are strong prevailing, off-shore winds and some steeper drop-offs near the creek sand bar. The town should decide if 1 or 2 lifeguard stand would still

be needed at the main beach. The state requires only, that the guarded area be marked by flags or signs. 100' on either side of the stand is considered the state mandate. Marker lines should be decided by the Harbormaster, beach manager, and the lifeguard captain.

D. Concession- for safety reasons, it is recommended that the current concession be moved from the North to the South side of the boat ramp. Currently, patrons have to cross and, even, stand on the ramp to make purchases. The reconfiguration of the beach entrance should make this feasible. Will Cronin also noted that the porta-johns will be moved slightly to the left and back. Moving them would make the beach entrance far more attractive.

E. Boat ramp- A heavy migration of sand from south to north ,(from the creek towards the main beach), caused considerable boat launching problems. MDPW removed the sand, on several occasions, but the problem returned within a few days. This is not considered a workable alternative. **** Rian noted that large quantities of sand moved towards the main beach and, as far, as the NFW out flow (about 150 yds North from the ramp) is the heaviest movement he has ever seen. The beach, all the way to the flow pipe, had more sand than in recent history - even through December. It is conceivable, that Sandy redistributed thousands of yards of sand over the entire beach. Many patrons commented, positively, about the depth and quality of sand on the entire beach.

Recommendation- the town continue to study the problem.

F. Dunes- Rian advised the Beach Commission that the town and volunteers had fenced much on the Navy Beach, and that some grass will be planted where Sandy eroded the town beach.

5. Will Cronin passed out information concerning a multi-agency grant application- The Coastal Resiliency Project. The town, Norman Bird Sanctuary, NFW, Aquidneck Island Trust, and several other local and state agencies, will join in a unified effort to improve all facets of the Second and Third Beach areas. Proposed improvements include dune conservation, “over the dunes” boardwalks, wetland restoration, burying power lines, storm water controls and several others. Will Cronin will keep us up-dated on the status of the grant.

6. Meeting adjourned 6:12 pm.