

Beach Commission Minutes- Meeting of 8/09/2016

Attending: Rian Wilkinson, Bill Seiple, Dave Leys, Will Cronin, Warren Hall, Steve Ponte

1. Open meeting 4:30

2. Approve minutes of 6/14/2016

3. Two residents spoke

- **Mrs. Ponte was concerned about ball playing and smoking on the beaches. She felt the lifeguards were not enforcing the beach rules. She presented a lifeguard booklet from the 1980's, written by, then, lifeguard Capt. Steve Ponte. It outlined the guard's responsibilities and it was agreed that this was a good concept and should be considered in the future.**

- **Mrs. McGann noted the MPD gator was attempting to drive on Third Beach during very crowded conditions. She felt this was dangerous, especially with the number of children on the beach. Some members felt that the gator might be better utilized at Second Beach.**

Steve Ponte, town harbormaster, spoke concerning the entire Third Beach/Nav Beach situation. The beach is in better condition and more popular than ever. There is a whole new beach population on the East side of the ramp. There are swimmers, rentals, and anchored boats. On many days, there are well over 100 patrons. On most days, there is no adult supervision. This is, especially, true when the attendants leave the ticket booth 3:30-4. After that time people park in restricted areas, in front of the boat ramp, and block traffic lanes. He recommended having the attendants stay longer. Steve also noted that the situation gets worse as people party into the

night. Several bonfires and, even, small scale fireworks are common.

In Conclusion: There is, virtually, no adult supervision on the Navy, Third and Boat Ramp for most of the week and none late in the afternoon. The Beach Commission will consider this as a top priority for the 2017 season.

4. Rock Parking Lot- Storm water

Warren Hall explained that the town will be implementing a storm water filtration plan for the Rock Parking lot. It will involve constructing a series of small retention areas filled with sand. These retention areas will act as a filter before the water, ultimately, drains into the ocean.

There will be a maximum loss of 15 parking spaces. However, it was noted the current parking arrangement, at the small rock lot, is not effective and a smaller lot will be more efficient, safer, and easier to manage.

The work, hopefully, would begin in the fall and be completed by the 2017 beach season. The Beach Commission, also, recommended that the lot be repaved and lined. It was also recommended that wall repairs should be included in the plan.

After the presentation, a motion was made seconded, and, unanimously approved. “The Beach Commission supports the town’s plan to improve storm water runoff at the Surfer’s End (Rock) parking lot.”

5. Bill Seiple presented a new traffic flow recommendation. He would have all traffic from Purgatory Road and Paradise Ave enter the beach from the Paradise Ave, East side of the “triangle”. He would

close off the road that runs in front of the two Rock parking lots. Entrance to the lots would be from the East side of Sachuest Point Road (beach road) . This could be a seasonal or permanent arrangement. Since this a State of RI road, DOT would have to be advised of the plan. Rian recommended that before we proceed further, the Beach Commission should contact the town and get their feelings on the suggestion.

6. Summer update- New signage was discussed to include No Smoking and Ball Playing regulations. Neither of these restrictions are on the current signs and have lead to conflicts. This will be a 2017 priority. Rian brought up some areas that should be addressed:

- a. Replacement of the broken flag pole at 3rd Beach.
- b. Replacement of the shade structure- main building- 2nd Beach.
- c. Fence or otherwise hide the generator at the main entrance of 2nd Beach.
- d. Paradise Ave parking- several residents are charges for parking on Paradise Ave. these private lots are funneling hundreds of patrons to the Rock/ "No Man's Land" area. This area has few amenities and is lightly lifeguarded. There are also patrons parking at the lot at Paradise Park, and the Paradise School House Parking Lot. There is no monetary loss to the town, but as agreed several years ago, beaches, like any entity, have a functional limit. Hopefully, will be reviewed in 2017.

7. Maidford River- Third Beach. Rian reported that that 3rd Beach has never been in better condition: Crystal Clear Water, Almost No Rocks in the water, and No beach Closures. He

contributes these to the blockage of the Maidford River. The water is draining out at the NFW Out-flow, far East side of the beach with no apparent adverse consequences. Dozens of beach patrols have commented on this improved condition and support leaving the creek closed.

8. Boardwalks/ Mats 3rd Beach- Dave Leys is concerned that there are no mats/ boardwalks at the main beach. The elderly/ handicapped are using the boat ramp as an access point to the water.

Dave distributed photo's showing people walking on the ream, as well as, children playing at the base of the ramp. Also, on occasion, the Del's cart/truck blocks the beach access.

9. Meeting Adjourned 5:47 pm