

Beach Commission Minutes – Meeting of 3/21/2017

Attending: Rian Wilkinson, John Ceglarski, John Crimmins, Dave Leys, Bill Seiple, Will Cronin, Charlene Cerillo, Theresa Santos, Steve Ponte, Mrs. Ponte, Mrs McGann

1. Open Meeting 4:33

2. Approved minutes of 02/14/2017

3. Mrs. Ponte and Mrs. McGann attended the meeting and requested an update on their fall recommendations. Will assured them that the town is going forward with Third Beach improvements including full-time supervisor, new flag pole, Mobi Mats, and beach rules signage and new picnic benches.

4. Harbor Master report- Steve Ponte

Steve reported that all the applications for Third Beach moorings and kayak racks have been emailed. Final rental numbers will be available for the May Beach Commission meeting. Although there has been significant movement on the mooring wait list, it still averages 3-5 years.

Steve recommended and the Beach Commission supported a request to add 10 more moorings- 5 seasonal and 5 transient. The recommendation will be forwarded to the town administrator. If approved by the town, a final recommendation would, ultimately, have to be presented and approved by CRMC and DEM.

Boat- The Harbor Master boat is 10 years old and needs a new motor and other improvements- estimated cost \$40,000.

5. Review- Town Council meeting- Dune conservation – paths (Sachuest Point Resiliency Grand Project)

Rian Wilkinson, Will Cronin, and Warren Hall presented the beach path program that incorporates Mobi Mats, dune grading, and extensive plantings. Also, a new “vehicle only” path will be incorporated to separate beach patrons and service vehicles.

After discussion, the Town Council approved the plan and forwarded it to the town administrator.

6. Rock Parking Lot

Warren Hall presented the storm water management plan. After brief discussion, the plan was approved by the Town Council and forwarded to the town administrator.

Construction will begin in early April and will be completed by Memorial Day.

7. Art work selection.

The Beach Commission approved 3 beach stickers, submitted by local students, for the 2017 season - All winners will receive a free beach pass.

8. New Business

- Third Beach area road construction – NFW - it was reported in the Newport Daily News that construction could not begin until a few days before Memorial Day. There was concern by the Town Council and Beach Commission that this would create serious problems for beach patrons, emergency vehicles, and boaters. There has not been much time to analyze the options, but, suggested, longer work days in early June might alleviate some of the concerns. The town is**

investigating other alternatives.

- **Bill Seiple suggested that initial work begin at the Navy Beach area- Completing the Navy parking lot and improving the road to the boat ramp would solve several problems. Beach parking, both lots, would be insured, boaters and rescue vehicles could use Third Beach Rd during construction. The town should have more info by the April Beach Commission meeting.**

- **Beach Cleaner- the town will purchase a new beach cleaner for the 2017 season. It will replace the current cleaner, which is, approximately 20 yrs old. The new cleaner is faster, more efficient and can operate in wet sand – Cost \$50,000.**

- **Concessions – The town has received excellent beach concession bids for the next 5 years.**

Food- Main Beach \$85,000- \$89,000. The town included several restrictions on plastic and foam products.

Food- Rock- \$18,000

Surf Board Rental- Rock- \$27,000

Kayaks, SUP Rentals- Third - \$8,500

Food- Third Beach - \$1,500

- **Beach Cameras**

The town will install 3 cameras, non-recording, at Second Beach. 1- at surfers end facing the ocean, 2- Main beach facing the ocean, 3- Main beach facing lot and road (will allow patrons to see how long the lines might be).

These cameras should give the beach some positive publicity.

8. Meeting adjourned 5:48.