



Middletown Beach Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2018

Middletown Fire Department Community Room

PRESENT: William Seiple, Kathleen Silveira, George Staples
& Rian Wilkinson

ABSENT: John Ceglarski, John Crimmons & David Leys

TOWN COUNCIL: Theresa Santos

TOWN REPRESENTIVES: Will Cronin, Tom O'Loughlin & Steve Ponte

PUBLIC: Brad Hierholzer, Peabody's Beach

Meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

Minutes of the January 9th, 2018 meeting approved as printed.

ITEMS DISCUSSED/ACTED UPON

A) BEACH EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT TO TC

Commission gave a step by step presentation. There were limited questions and comments. The most significant change was the elimination of the campground and replacing it with resident parking.

B) TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 5, 2018 BEC REPORT – PUBLIC INPUT

All but two speakers were campground patrons concerned about the closing of the campground.

Chairmen Wilkinson spoke concerning beach overcrowding. Closing the campground would result in 600 plus patrons in a small section of the beach.

Road parking (shoulder) at Second Beach Road would not only add more patrons to the Rock end of beach, but restore a dangerous practice that was eliminated over 20 years ago.

Rock Parking lot – the group of spaces to the East of the left side of the lot were never removed, as agreed last spring. The lot spaces were also reduced to approximately 8' standard is 9'. This combination made parking very difficult. BEC has restricted Rock parking to compact and small SUV's. Chairman Wilkinson suggested relining the lot.

Norman Bird Sanctuary parking for Third Beach would add 300 plus patrons, a 50% increase to a beach with almost no facilities.

Meeting outcome – BEC decided to retain the campground but with increased fees – 2018 - \$6,800 and 2019 \$8,800.

C) BEACH COMMISSION DISCUSSION – RE: BEC RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff cuts – Bill Seiple noted that there may be more staff than in past years, but the staff, both guards and crew/attendants work 48 hours per week. Now 40 hours or less. Therefore, more staff had to be hired. Also, by the middle of August, about 1/3 of staff has left for school and or vacations.

Harbor Master – BEC recommended 20 new moorings – BC recommended 10. Requests need to be approved by CRMC.

Single float dock 20' x 30' might not be sufficient. Several may be needed.

Week day security – it was noted that some week days are as crowded as weekends but with almost no security. Will inform the BC that the town is looking at correcting this issue.

Campground – discussion on the possible affects of the proposed rates. Members compared camps they have visited.

NEW BUSINESS

Brad Hierholzer, manager of Peabody's Beach was optimistic that the town and the beach club could cooperate with removing telephone poles, lifeguarding, improving harbor master facilities and generally improving Third Beach.

Next meeting called for March 13th, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Rian Wilkinson, Chairman
Middletown Beach Commission