

Fogland Beach Oversight Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2014

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman; Conservation Commission), C. Lima (Neighborhood Representative); C. Clarendon (Harbor Commission); and M. Van Hof (Open Space Commission).

Members absent: C. Roemlein (Recreation Commission); S. Berlucci (Director of Public Works); and M. Wojcik (Town Administrator).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ramotowski at 5:25 PM.

I. Public Delegations: There were no public delegations.

II. Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes for approval.

III. Draft Language for Changes to Section 54 of the Town Code:

Chairman Ramotowski reported on his presentation to the Town Council at its September meeting. The wording changes for Section 54 approved by the Oversight Committee were presented to the Town Council. The Town Solicitor pointed out some ambiguities in the proposed new language. In particular, the new language would allow leashed dogs in the conservation area during the off season, but did not address what was allowed during the summer. It was understood that all dogs, leashed or not were banned from the beach during the summer, but Section 54, as it presently exists, did not say that.

The proposed new wording that would give formal control of the Fogland boat ramp to the Harbor Commission was also questioned by the Town Council. The Town Solicitor noted that Section 54 was only meant to define which town-owned areas were under the control of the Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Open Space Commission. It did not mention the Harbor Commission at all. In addition, there was a section in the existing Code 54 that assigned responsibility for a number of public rights-of-way to salt water beaches as belonging to the Recreation Commission, while some of the Town Councilors thought those rights-of-way had been given to the Harbor Commission.

Because of the need for more changes in Section 54 (other than what was proposed by the Oversight Committee), the Town Council asked the Town Solicitor to review Section 54 in its entirety and propose other necessary changes and report back to the Town Council at a future date.

Mr. Clarendon stated that the Harbor Commission had authority over all land within 200 feet of salt water. By that definition, almost all of Fogland would actually be under control of the Harbor Commission. Chairman Ramotowski asked Mr. Clarendon to provide the section of the Town Code that authorized the 200 foot rule. It is possible that there are now several sections of the Town Code that contradict each other regarding which Town Commission controlled what areas of Fogland, and if confirmed, a return visit to the Town Council Would be necessary to sort out the contradictions.

IV. Results/Observations from September Inspection Tour:

Mr. Clarendon stated that people we making their own pathways through the beach dunes to reach the north cove. There are existing breaks in the beach dunes that could/should be used by people to access the north cove. Signs need to be posted to direct people the desired crossing points to limit damage to the easily damaged dunes and beach vegetation.

Mr. Clarendon noted that boulders still needed to be placed at the end of the windsurfer beach to prevent vehicles from driving along the beach at low tide. Mr. Clarendon stated that had seen cars racing down the paved road and then along the beach on several occasions. If the police cannot patrol Fogland regularly because it is so remote, then perhaps cameras should be set up so that vandals and other hooligans can be identified by their vehicle license plate numbers and prosecuted. The Committee discussed the various acts of vandalism that had occurred at Fogland during the past summer season, including the disabling of the toilets in the bathhouse by dumping rocks down the pipes, and a bonfire in which a lifeguard chair was burned.

V. Plantings on Beach Dunes?:

Mr. Van Hof stated that plants suitable for beach dunes would cost about \$1 per plant. It is probably too late in the season to plant anything now, but the Committee should plan on purchasing at least 100 plants and assembling a group of volunteers to plant them on some of the new dunes. The plants would have their own root ball, and would be planted one foot from any other plants. Thus, 100 plants would cover a 100 square foot area.

Chairman Ramotowski stated that he would ask the Conservation Commission if it would agree to spend \$100 from its budget to purchase beach vegetation for the dunes.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5.56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

T. Ramotowski, Chairman