

**New Shoreham Shoreline Access Working Group
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
Town Hall, Old Town Road
4:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair Michael Shea, Members: Doug Michel, Marc Tillson and Sven Risom. Also present, for the recording of minutes, was Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes. Members Gary Ryan and Chris Blane were absent.

Mr. Shea called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

1. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

2. Approval of Minutes of: August 4, 2015

Mr. Tillson moved to approve the minutes of August 4, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Risom and carried.

3 Ayes (Risom, Shea, Tillson)	0 Nays	2 Absent (Blane, Ryan)
	1 Abstain (Michel)	

3. Discuss Rescue/Police Beach Access by Ballards

Steve Filippi was present representing Ballard's Inn. Mr. Shea stated that it was important to ensure that emergency and rescue access is available on the south side of the building in the alleyway between Ballard's and the Ocean View property. Mr. Filippi explained that they work with the Police Chief annually to ensure proper security and emergency access. He noted that they keep the alleyway open enough to allow the police four-wheeler to get through to the beach and that the staff and security team are aware of the need for access and how to respond during an emergency. Mr. Risom suggested that the Rescue Squad be included in the preseason annual meeting with the Police Chief to ensure open communication.

The committee members thanked Steve Filippi for attending.

4. Report on Site Signage and Access Site Map

Mr. Shea reported that he and Mr. Tillson met with Town Attorney Katherine Merolla to discuss site signage and the creation of an access site map. He explained that the attorney advises against any site signage to limit liability. He further explained that a map can be generated as long as it has a very lengthy disclaimer. Mr. Risom questioned how to connect sites on a map with actual locations on the island, without the use of site markers.

5. Discuss and act on shoreline access points examined during site visits: Dorry's Cove, Gracie's Cove, Charleston Beach, Coast Guard Beach and Ball O'Brien Park

Charleston Beach: Mr. Tillson stated that landowners Sonny and Carol Kern offered a portion of their property along Champlin Road near Charleston Beach for up to six angle parking spaces. The Kerns were present. Discussion ensued and the Kerns were thanked with much gratitude. Mr. Shea will meet with the Kerns to measure an area and initiate the process. It was noted that "No Parking" enforcement and signs are needed on the east side of the road.

Pete Tweedy was present and stated the Town was doing a disservice to point out and promote beach access areas when people cannot actually come and access them – no parking, etc.

Mr. Michel suggested opening up the area before the hill on either side of the road for additional parking.

Coast Guard Beach: It was suggested that the following actions be taken:

- Open the area at the beginning of the path behind the motor pool building about 20 ft. to create a drop-off area.
- Site bike racks and picnic tables down the path to keep the parking area open.
- Open the width of the entire path to 6 ft. wide all the way to the beach.

Discussion ensued regarding opening up the tennis courts at the Coast Guard Station to parking. The challenges noted include the need for storage, dormitory parking and security for police and Coast Guard.

It was noted that an email was received from Courtney Rosenfeld with suggestions for the area (attached).

Ball O'Brien Park: Mr. Risom noted that although there may be plans for future development of this area in the future, continued maintenance of the trail to the shoreline is important. Mr. Shea stated that he would follow-up with the Block Island Land Trust to make sure they include the area in their trail maintenance plan.

Dorry's Cove: It was noted that the area has two paths, a walking path and a drainage path. Mr. Risom stated he envisioned drainage under a more formal structure. Mr. Michel suggested filling the drainage path with stones to create a streambed and minimize erosion.

Gracies Cove: Mr. Michel suggested providing a similar set up to Dorry's Cove with a walking path and a drainage streambed path.

Mr. Risom moved to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tillson and carried unanimously.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: October 6, 2015