

# TOWN OF SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2023  
Held remotely via Zoom

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**Attendees:** Kelly Bower, Katie Dahlstrom, Andrea Ramsey, Richard Beekman

**Absent:**

**Additional:** Chris Connors

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## Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order 6:07 pm. Motion by Andrea Ramsey; Second by Richard Beekman (4/0 in favor).
2. Meeting minutes from 11/09/2022 accepted. Motion by Katie Dahlstrom; Second by Richard Beekman (4/0 in favor).
3. Coastal Management: No update.
4. Caring for our Coast Workshop Series: No update.
5. Beach Grass Planting: Kelly is tentatively planning for November in partnership with NSRWA
6. Clean ups: Kelly proposed starting in May and holding one per month until October; thus 6 beach clean ups total. Last summer to publicize, Kelly made flyers and posted around Scituate and neighboring communities. Kelly also utilized social media to publicize. Katie suggested perhaps we could partner with private organizations like Untold Brewery to help support and publicize. Kelly stated we have done some of that: for instance Inly posted in their newsletter.
  - Richard asked if we should reconsider the day & time. Andrea felt Sunday evenings were difficult. Kelly felt Saturday morning 9-11 am worked better.
  - Kelly will plan; dates are in attachment. Food duties may be divided up between the commission members.
7. Beach Entrance Signage: Select Board has approved new design (white with blue lettering) & most beach locations. Kelly is still working on the Minot Beach location. The Select Board did not want in parking lots, Gordon Park, or at Wells Rock entrance; perhaps on the wall at Gannett & Glades. Kelly thinks it's good progress. The funding for the signage is approved by the CPC committee and will be up for vote / approval at the Town Meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>.
8. Beach Reports:
  - Minot Beach: Andrea shared that the fire in Minot on Glades Rd was devastating to five houses, but thankfully no injuries. Response by fire departments was excellent. Beach has been very rocky lately as the berm moves North / South. Stairs are much improved although visibly eroding in spots.

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- Peggotty Beach: Richard shared there has been some water breaking through over the winter. There's also been issues with residents moving sand into adjacent areas around. (Using major equipment to move it.)
  - Kelly stated the beaches have overall been clean.
  - Katie said Humarock has been fine; no major updates.
  - Mutt Mitts: all noted the dispensers are empty in the winters. Kelly has been unsuccessful in getting a key to the recreation department supply. Humarock residents fill the dispensers with plastic shopping bags. Katie suggested talking to the Friends of the Dog Park. Andrea to contact Friends of Dog Park – see if perhaps they could help in having the dispensers stocked.
9. Resident Survey: Kelly sent out a [draft survey for review](#). Katie thought it was a nice start. It paralleled the community building survey, which got a decent response. Katie would like to see more input from participants: reasons they preferred or did not prefer a beach to help us pick out areas of concern. She wants to be sure we gather sufficient data to make the survey valuable. Katie also raised the PR part: making the survey known & easy for community members to answer. Richard suggested open fields be added to each question; he's found these to be valuable in survey data. At present the only open field option is Other. Richard is happy to read the response data. Katie agrees you can get valuable data when it's open field input, however has found context is required to make the data useful.
- Katie: Suggestions: Beach Condition response. We have a certain way of thinking about it, but others may think of it as trash or access or parking. We may want to define the "condition" or break it down further (without adding too many questions). Condition – might be too rocky or too much trash – we want to know the difference. We can't control rocks, but we can control trash. Use same scale for the "least favorite" and "most favorite": Perhaps it's distance to home, parking, aesthetic, amenities, accessibility. We want to make responses actionable.
  - Katie – suggested adding "activities or amenities would you like to see at the beaches." Richard agreed, this could be free brainstorming from residents.
  - Andrea asked about including beach stickers in this survey, but Kelly wants to keep that as a separate topic / survey at another time.
  - Kelly will revise and send to the group for review.
  - Richard asked who the survey is received by and how it gets deployed. Katie suggested sending as wide as possible. Send via town notifications and perhaps through a Facebook page or other social media we can leverage. Richard suggests town announcements if possible.

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- Andrea asked if Identification/demographic of the participant would be useful (Resident or non-resident, age brackets, etc) Kelly shared that demographic is tough with free version of survey monkey: we are limited to 10 questions. Richard and Katie both offered to explore alternative platforms that could allow more questions.
10. Beach Stickers: Out of Town stickers sold out in 2 minutes (a new record).
11. Sunrise Beach Sticker Proposal: No progress since Conor moved to a new board.
- Katie is wondering the purpose / incentive? Andrea shared this was originally proposed by Andrew Goodrich of the Select Board as an economic enticement. Deborah had reviewed with the owners of Nor'Easter Surf Shop and Belsan Bait and Tackle: both were in favor and offered to sell at their shops if that was viable. At present police do not usually patrol in the mornings, so no penalty or incentive. Richard was surprised that the surf shop & fishing shop would support.
  - Andrea asked if a one-day weekday pass was a possibility; has used something similar while living in Chicago. Katie shared her experience from growing up in Gloucester (which has public beaches, in which parking lots are paid). On weekends in the summer the parking lots would frequently sell out. It's very difficult as a resident to have lack of access. However she likes the idea of a temporary – only weekday – limited number pass. Kelly mentioned that Peggotty does have a one day a week that a parking pass can be purchased. Richard thinks there is potential to have a one weekday, limited number pass. Katie agrees that if the goal is to increase visibility of Scituate and raise some money, the pass helps that. She noted that there is a fine line of public beach vs bringing in some economic income vs sharing the natural resource that we have. Richard proposed an example: someone is looking at a new house --- maybe they buy a pass for a day. Beaches are a great avenue to help showcase Scituate.
  - Katie will take more action on this one – she knows Andrew and will review.
12. QR Sticker Proposal: this was Conor's idea; On the North Shore QR codes are being added for translation reasons. This could be added to the blue sign (Rec) to translate it to Portuguese. Richard will reach out to Conor about the idea.
13. Floating Beach Wheelchairs: Richard shared that the Accessibility Committee has a budget and will help with payment for replacement of the floating wheelchair that is in rough shape. Kelly believes the Humarock floating wheelchair is stored outside (at the fire station) and therefore it is in rough shape. Richard thought there were 4 total, but it's unclear how many the Town owns and where they are stored. Richard will keep moving to research the number, storage, and condition. Kelly asked if he can get more

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information on how the wheelchairs are loaned out. Is it delivered or dropped off? Are there any areas for improvements or changes?

14. Bike Racks: Andrea spoke with resident Nancy Werner who is passionate about getting bike racks and bike paths more prevalent in Scituate. She would like to help in our efforts as she also works on improving biking throughout the town. The question is do we want a more functional or more aesthetic bike rack at each beach? Katie likes the South Shore Vocational School built bike racks which are more expensive but provide a beautiful aesthetic. Richard agrees that it comes down to values, which is hard to determine since we only have pricing for the Vocational School bike racks. Andrea to get better budgetary estimates to allow a comparison of functional vs the student build (labor, materials, installation, etc).
  - Kelly strongly suggests we consider CPC funding. Start with request that involves the student made bike racks. There are no rules against soliciting donations from private citizens. CPC is not a conflict as long as we state we have multiple funding sources.
  - Andrea & Kelly to walk beaches and select possible locations. Try to involve Nancy too.
15. New Vice Chair: Katie Dahlstrom. Motion by Kelly; Second by Richard (4/0 in favor).
16. Beach Social: Katie wanted to revisit this idea from last fall. Can we gather in a meaningful & budget friendly way this summer? Kelly stated the physical location was a challenge. In the summer we could host at Peggotty Beach and serve pizza. Rich thinks that's a good idea; he's attended impromptu gatherings at Peggotty. All liked a week day evening; perhaps 6 pm when the weather is warmer. Bring your Own Chair & Bottle. We provide pizza. Kate to move forward with organizing.
17. Next Meeting: May 10 at 6 pm. Subsequent meeting June 14 at 6 pm. Both meetings to be held online.
18. Restrooms: Kelly obtaining pricing for restrooms; this is being reviewed by Tony Vegnani.
19. Meeting adjourned 7:42 pm. Motion by Kelly; Second by Richard (4/0 in favor).