

TOWN OF SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2023
Held remotely via Zoom

Attendees: Kelly Bower, Kate Dahlstrom, Andrea Ramsey, Richard Beekman

Absent:

Additional: Seth (Scituate TV)

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order 6:05 pm. Motion by Kate Dahlstrom; Second by Andrea Ramsey (3/0 in favor).
2. Meeting minutes from 5/10/2022 accepted. Motion by K. Dahlstrom. Second by A. Ramsey (3/0 in favor).
3. Coastal Management Update: None
4. Trash Clean Ups: Minot was a small turn out: 5 individuals attended. It was wonderful weather and very little trash to collect! The beach was in excellent shape.
Next clean up: Egypt beach on July 8th.
Partnership update: Andrea contacted Mullaney's Harborside Fish Market and the owner is very willing to help; either September, October, or November would be fine. NESS verbally sounded excited, but no written confirmation has been received. Andrea will contact Board 143 to ask if they are interested. Kelly will contact Maria's sub shop. Kate will share the draft template she used to request partnership with Funtastics.
5. Beach Reports: It looks like summer – trash cans and mobi matts are out.
Humarock: Katie: Lots of activity. The gate has been re-opened, the mobi mat is out and trash cans are out. Parking Lot has only one trash can, by the post office. The basketball court area does not currently have a trash receptacle and could be a good location for one. The mobi matt looks different than last year; Kelly will check with the Recreation department to make sure it's fully out.
Peggotty: Richard: Looks great. New fencing, port a potties, 5 trash receptacles. New little library. Footwash station is no longer available and he would like to determine why it was removed.
Minot: Andrea: Looked good. Port-a-potties not out. Mobi Matts out. Water station is not out. Trash receptacles are becoming more prevalent.
6. Resident Survey: Richard has imported into Google Forms which gives more flexibility. Demographic questions were discussed and agreed that the age range is helpful. Another discussion was whether we want to know the type of beach-goer (solo, with friends, etc.). How does someone get to the beach (bicycle, wagon, car)? Also looking at a question we can ask about a day pass that helps us discern if residents are in favor. Richard will add a few more questions and send to group for review.

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Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2023
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Historical Results. The previous survey had 285 respondents. The highest beach attendance was Humarock; that was surprising. From these results – we may want to know how did the respondent hear about the survey? Kate noted it was also interesting that 26% said they use a relative to access the beach; which makes sense if Humarock is the most visited.

7. Beach Sticker Proposal: Rough draft has been developed by Kate to state our goals for a pilot program. She wants to ensure that we clearly identify that our intention is to expand without impacting residents.

A question raised by Rich is what does the current pass look like? Kate is unsure and will get a pass from the harbormaster. She likes the idea of “expanding” the current program rather than calling this a new initiative. Also looking at advance ordering of day passes (perhaps 7 days). Andrea suggested adding a coupon or economic incentive for people to go to local businesses. Kate likes that idea – we could also give a list of the rules with the pass when purchased (take your trash, leash dogs, etc).

Cost: \$25 was proposed in the draft and is slightly higher than nearby beaches (Rexhame & Duxbury), but it provides access to multiple beaches. Richard wants the pilot to be successful therefore he would prefer we stay at \$20 or lower. If we want an uptick in participation, a lower price point would encourage more purchases. Kate suggested we could list a range and ask the Select Board for price input.

Limit: 20 per day. Kate is not sure if there is a current limit, but all agreed this sounds reasonable for a pilot.

Input: once we’ve got our draft more finalized, Kate will go to some of the other commissions recommended by Corey.

AirBnb quotations: Andrea & Richard both liked including the reviews in the presentation.

8. QR Sticker Proposal: No progress update.
9. Floating Wheelchairs: Richard brainstormed with Josh Sigsworth (from the Scituate Accessibility Commission) ideas to help raise awareness of the floating wheelchairs. Thinks we could add signage at the beach. He also approached Megan Sommer for assistance and they’ve keep missing each other’s calls. At Peggotty, the pod containing the floating wheelchair is currently installed. There is an empty pole without a sign next to it that could be used for a sign advertising the wheelchar. Josh also mentioned that accessibility has funding they are looking to spend. One potential is to purchase a pod for Minot Beach (if that is feasible). However the parking lot has space constraints. Andrea asked if the West Lot is a problem (it’s gravel and farther), but it would have space. It’s unclear how heavy the wheelchair is, but this is likely too far from the beach.

TOWN OF SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2023
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10. Bike Racks: Andrea was able to meet with the DPW engineers. The DPW is not able to install or pour concrete pads for mounting bike racks. The 5 bike racks currently around town were added in 2012 – via a grant – and the DPW helped out by creating a specification and RFP for the pads and installation. (However, this should really have been done by the committee that received the grant.) The DPW could most likely receive any bike racks that are purchased and store until installation. The DPW will help with reviewing any specifications needed for the project.
Location of the bike racks is still in development. Ideally the rack would have close proximity to the beach entry point and have safe setbacks from driving lanes. The best location at Minot and Peggotty are currently occupied by Lifeguard designated parking spaces. Discussion with the new Recreation Department head (Nick Lombardo) have started and a meeting is set up for later this month to view in person and discuss shifting one Lifeguard designated spot to make room for a resident bike rack. Once Recreation is on board, the location will need approval from Conservation and the DPW. (The DPW has already expressed willingness to help with locating.)
Budgetary numbers: Commercial bike rack pricing (for a rack able to hold 10 bicycles) is estimated to be \$2,500 for the rack & anchor bolts. Nancy Werner (who is currently creating a charter for a new Scituate Bicycling Commission) has obtained quotations from several companies that make commercial short term bicycle racks. This does not include the install or prep need to mount. Andrea has inquiries with 3 contractors to obtain budgetary pricing for the concrete work & labor. If a request was made to the CPC, it looks that approximately \$30,000 would be needed to add racks to 6 beaches (assuming \$5000-\$6000 per beach).
Alternatively, if we go with a more aesthetically unique design and work with the South Shore Vocational School, that pricing was ~\$4,000 per rack. A concrete pad would still be needed, but the installation would be by the students. Kate loves the aesthetically pleasing student supported route. We're putting better signage at each beach and she would like to see a more art driven & creative, community created bicycle rack.
Andrea's concern is the timing of CPC funding if we go with the Vocational school created bike rack. She had hoped the memorial program could be re-instated to fund the bike racks; however Kelly stated she has been told repeatedly by Select Board members that the memorial program will not be re-started. Andrea will explore more funding opportunities. Kate asked about the cultural council? Is there an opportunity to partner with them? The Scituate Education Fund was also mentioned, but since it's not a Scituate school it probably wouldn't apply.
11. Beach Social: Kate announced we're all set for the Drift In on Thursday, June 29th at 4:30 pm. Kate will send an email to all beach association contacts to invite. High top area

TOWN OF SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION

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will be reserved for us and we can be inside / outside. Drift In will provide a few complimentary appetizers and cash bar for attendees. Kate may just print a sign to help. Turn out is TBD. Not going to ask for an RSVP. She will have flyers for clean ups out. Perhaps a wheelchair flyer., etc. Kate asked should we have name tags. Richard feels to do name tags only if we have a LOT of turnout. Kate will cc everyone on her invite and we can each follow up with beach associations as desired.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, July 10th 6:00 pm.

13. Meeting adjourned 7:17 pm. Motion by K. Bower. Second by K. Dahlstrom. (4/0 in favor)