

TOWN OF SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2022
Held virtually via GoToMeeting

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order 6:06 pm.
2. Meeting minutes from 1/12/2022 accepted.
3. Introduction of Corey Miles, the new Scituate Coastal Resources Officer. She's recently moved back to MA after working in Virginia. She has started her role by visiting beach locations and gathering information. Beach commission shared some of our priorities and projects: trash & litter reduction / removal, accessibility improvements, signage, sustainability, amenity enhancements, and beach renourishment. Corey had a few suggestions / observations for our commission to consider:
 - Peggotty Beach: Noted a lack of beach grass separating the dune from the marsh. Suggested planting more beach grass and adding short fencing. Beach grass does best when planted in winter.
 - Several neighbors to this beach have added plantings and/or fencing themselves; would be beneficial to work with them. Collaborate with conservation as needed too.
 - ** Karen to send Peggotty neighbor contacts to Richard and Corey.
 - ** Richard to connect with Peggotty neighbors as needed.
 - High school may be doing some beach planting projects
Grant opportunity may exist – specifically for nature based solutions such as this with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management.
 - ** Andrea to lead pursuit of grant opportunity. Corey will assist on editing / review.
 - Egypt Beach: Noted access is not marked; Trail just ends.
 - Boardwalk is added in the summer to designate walking path from parking lot to beach.
 - Bike Racks: absent from all beaches. Advocate for bike infrastructure to be added.
 - Bike racks will be incorporated in the 3-5 year plan: determine details of locations, funding, etc. All agree bike racks are a priority.
 - Scituate Library bike rack was built and installed by the South Shore Vocational high school students (donated labor). A resident donated all materials.

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- Look at pairing with economic development benefits / partnering with cultural council.
 - Kayak storage briefly mention – on Museum Beach – as beach needed new plantings / restoration because of too many kayaks. Perhaps a neighborhood or beach association could lead.
 - Future communication with Corey: include on distribution list. She'll participate in beach commission meetings as appropriate.
4. Other Business: Updates / Items to note from Karen:
- Meeting is being planned for March 1st at with various groups that work with coastline: conservation, waterways, etc. Karen suggests we participate.
 - Pilgrim Nuclear Station Decommissioning: as part of decommissioning process, Holtec International is considering releasing contaminated water into Cape Cod Bay which could impact water quality and fishing for the entire South Shore. Citizen groups and municipalities are monitoring situation closely.
 - Projects we may want to incorporate into the town budget: Process is to provide recommendations to Town Admin by Thanksgiving (start discussions in Sept/Oct). Goes through approval process – eventually goes to Town Meeting in spring.
5. Three – Five Year Plan
- Priority Buckets:
 - Trash
 - Sustainability
 - Accessibility
 - Amenity enhancement
 - Beach Renourishment (support as possible)
 - Goal is to describe what we currently have, describe the ideal, and describe the steps to achieve.
 - Rocks and Sand metaphor: Rocks = large tasks; Sand = small tasks. Focus on the sand and we'll work up to / tackle the Rocks as opportunities arise.
 - Minot renourishment / access – study is up for vote at Town Meeting (\$100,000)
 - ** Each member is to write / brainstorm their ideas into the 3-5 year document shared via google docs by Kelly. We'll incorporate together at the next meeting. Look at other towns. Be comprehensive. Remembers this is an evolving document.

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6. Signage: Goal is to have consistent, legible, well placed, aesthetically pleasing signage at each beach.
 - Perhaps a metal informational sign and aesthetic wooden sign at each beach.
 - List rules – dog hours, no littering, etc.
 - ** Each member is to take a picture and record locations of all signs at their beach.
7. Seawall:
 - Cedar Point neighborhood is of a high concern (183 Turner Rd)
 - ** Kelly to invite seawall committee to our next meeting.
8. Beach Stickers: Postponed discussion until next meeting.
 - METCO: **Conor to advise
 - Sunrise: ** Deb to advise
9. First Cliff beach access: Postponed discussion until next meeting.
 - ** Conor to advise.
10. Beach Commission Charge:
 - Hull & Duxbury charges – sent by Kelly for reference.
 - Questions are still under review with Karen.
 - ** Kelly to send initial draft of charge to board once she's gotten further input from Karen.
11. Beach Monitoring: Initial inspections have been completed. Let's keep up the monitoring so we can provide regular reports to Karen and track the status of each beach.
 - ** Kelly to send observational template to be used for monitoring.
12. Next meetings:
 - March 1st at 6:00 pm at the Scituate Senior Center – will be larger group meeting with other boards / councils – agenda specifics TBD.
 - Tentatively Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 pm at the Scituate Library with seawall committee.
 - **Kelly to confirm date / time pending seawall committee availability.
13. Meeting Adjourned 7:43 pm