

**TOWN OF SCITUATE
BEACH COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2022

Held remotely via ZOOM

Attendees: Kelly Bower, Katie Dahlstrom, Andrea Ramsey

Absent: Conor Doherty, Richard Beekman

Additional: Corey Miles, Chris ?

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm. Motion by Andrea Ramsey; Second by Katie Dahlstrom. (3/0 in favor)
2. Meeting minutes from 10.12.2022 accepted. Motion by Katie Dahlstrom; Second by Andrea Ramsey. (3/0 in favor)
3. Corey Miles provided a coastal management update:

North Scituate renourishment: Released RFP for engineering services, hoping for construction fall 2023.

Seawall on Oceanside Drive: Public meeting postponed to November 15.

Scituate Harbor Project (Pier 44): Initial meeting held with design consultant and site survey performed. Plan is to turn the parcel into a public park for passive recreation (maybe restroom space or a small pier, but yet to be designed). Currently developing three concepts to choose from and will share with the Beach Commission. Schedule is to present and obtain feedback in January then refine and bring to the Town Meeting in the spring. The Community Center will be demolished and existing programming will be moved to other facilities, not much is still there and other spaces are available. Current building is in disrepair and located in a flood zone.

Cole Parkway Redevelopment Committee: The roster is nearly finalized and Corey hopes to meet by the end of 2022. Goal is to resolve flooding issues while still accommodating parking and recreation space.

Minot Beach Stairwells: Work is nearing completion at Minot Beach, equipment has been removed. There is a final inspection with a punch list of items to complete.

Kelly Bower thanked Corey for the updates and hard work.
4. Beachgrass Planting: Kelly stated that the event was a massive success. Kelly thanked the Town of Scituate and Scituate Community TV for their help in publicizing the event. The video produced by SCTV really captures the spirit of the day, available via Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/scituatetv/videos/502668535122755>

Approximately 80 people of all ages participated, planting 10,000 culms of American beachgrass in less than two hours. Kelly expressed her gratitude to Brian Taylor from NSRWA who was wonderful in providing educational instruction and helpful tips to participants. Theresa Delahunt from NSRWA took photos. All agreed it was a great event:

cheerful crowd, perfect weather. Corey Miles was glad we planted it all and thrilled to have so many participants. Kelly and Katie Dahlstrom helped with refreshments. Per Corey we will monitor the plants, as there is often spot erosion over the winter. Overall, keeping the dune vegetated will continue to build the resilience of this area, helping to prevent further erosion and overwash into the marshes. Kelly shared that Karen Canfield (Select Board) stopped by at 11:30 and was thrilled to see the progress; she agreed that beachgrass plantings should be done regularly as needed to maintain the dunes. The board could consider allocating funds annually for native plants/dune protection. The funding for this event came from the Beach Sticker Revolving Fund. Kelly thinks there are opportunities for plantings at Humarock, Museum, and Minot. Corey would be able to review future planting locations.

5. Peggotty Beach Dune Fencing: Corey plans to reorient the layout of the dune fencing for improved erosion control using a zig zag formation to capture windblown sand and to protect the dune. This will require DPW assistance. Current fencing is quite stable; installed by current residents.
6. Beach Assistance Outreach: Kelly's original concept for a small beach association gathering was to host at Untold Brewery, but they're not currently available. Kelly looked into other options for hosting: Inn at Scituate Harbor (cost is \$400). Scituate Beach Association is \$1200. Maritime Center is closed for winter and booked for the season remainder. Community Center suggested by Corey but this would require catering and alcohol license. We were given a budget of \$100 for the event from the Beach Sticker Revolving Fund. Goodies in the Harbor extended hospitality to the group, because it is private and not a town event we could have alcohol without license. Kelly suggested that one way to work within the current budget would be for all of us to bring a bottle. Her idea is to invite all members of the beach associations to facilitate introductions. Select Board is encouraging the Beach Commission to connect with the various neighborhood beach associations. Four weeks ago this idea seemed manageable however the target date is November 22. Kelly questioned if we want to proceed. Katie agreed that this would be difficult to organize because we are so close to the date. Humarock will not be available. Conor Doherty is in favor and willing to kick in whatever is needed. Andrea Ramsey is out of town. Decision made to postpone event.
7. Mobi Mats, Mutt Mitts, Trash Cans: Trash cans are not used as much in the winter, DPW removes most receptacles. Minot down to one; Peggotty down to one; Humarock down to one at entrance and one at parking lot. At Humarock the Mutt Mitt stand is being stocked by residents with grocery bags. Kelly will talk to the DPW again about the potential for keys to the dispenser so that the Beach Commission can help to stock Mutt Mitts. The bags are available, just not getting restocked.
8. Cleanup Stations: No update (remove from list) – will be installed in May.
9. Signage: The Select Board feels that the proposed design is disjointed with regard to the existing Town branding. Their direction is to match the Town Pier, the Harborwalk, and the Sea Scituate signage. Kelly has started working with a new designer. There is still a CPC application open to request the funding; Kelly will attend to support the request. The Harborwalk sign has a lighthouse; the Sea Scituate is typically white with

blue lettering, and the logo features a boat and a lighthouse.

10. Sunrise Beach Sticker: No update.
11. Bike Racks: No update. Kelly to do a Minot beach walk with Andrea to review potential locations and then meet with DPW to look at all the beaches. Okay with having different designs. Katie loved the individual racks and quite unique. In favor of unique bike racks. Kelly thinks CPC could also fund. Memorial Program or CPC are both ideas for funding.
12. Floating Wheelchairs: Andrea reported that Richard Beekman had connected with the Commission on Disabilities; they have some funding available (\$5,000) and would be interested in purchasing additional floating wheelchairs. He is invited to their upcoming meeting(s), but has not been able to attend. All agree we need to promote the floating wheelchairs resource more.
13. QR Sticker Proposal: No update.
14. Amenity Enhancement: Kelly is finishing up the plan and will be sharing it for review soon.
15. Bathroom Amenities: Concern about the potential for vandalism was raised by a resident. Commitment to cleaning and maintenance is necessary to decrease the possibility for vandalism; Andrea was surprised that the resident thinks this would be vandalized. Perhaps lifeguards could be utilized in some beach cleanup (sweeping sand off Mobi Mats and cleaning, stocking, monitoring bathrooms)
16. Next Meeting: December 14 at 6:00 pm. Second Wednesday works for Katie – we can consider changing the time. Need to discuss as a group.
17. Additional Items: Deborah Ceccarini was delighted with the beachgrass planting video though she was not able to attend. Tony Vegnani was very pleased. Select Board gave a glowing update on the beachgrass planting during the Town weekly update.
18. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. Motion by Kelly Bower; Second by Katie Dahlstrom. (3/0 in favor)