


Rye Beach Committee Report

The Rye Beach Committee consists of Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal, Keper Connell, and Steve Hillman. They were charged with observing activity on the beaches and gathering comments and thoughts of beach goers. Based on the Beach Committee's observations and feedback, they were asked to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

During the summer the Committee had four meetings where they discussed various issues and exchanged ideas based on their observations and conversations with residents and other beach goers. It should also be mentioned that Chief Walsh attended every meeting and provided valuable feedback and insights. Below is a list of the Committee's thoughts and recommendations:

- The Committee noticed more out of town beach goers from VT, ME, NY and especially from Canada. The Committee wondered if this was the result of increased advertising from various sources. The Committee recommends that the state provide seasonal funding to manage the beach use increase. These funds would be to support enforcement and infrastructure management.
- With the increase in beach goers there has also been an increase in trash left on the beaches and along the sides of the roads. A recommendation would be to provide more trash cans on the beaches especially at Sawyers Beach. In addition, the Committee would also recommend more routine and regular trash pick-up.
- The Committee strongly felt that there should be a Permit Application Fee and Permit Fee. The initial fee would be a processing fee for a Permit Application and then upon the Board of Selectmen's approval of the Permit an additional fee would be to activate the Permit for organizations and businesses applying for a permit for activities on the beach.
- A major issue, especially for residents of Rye, was the issue of parking. The Committee agreed with and is in full support of the recommendations rendered by the Parking Study of 2014. Another recommendation would be to explore the possibility of providing more parking for the residents of Rye that purchase Beach Parking Permits. Another concern was the number of RV's or oversized vehicles that park along Route 1A.
- The Committee recommends the lifeguard stands should be mobile so they can be moved closer to the water at low tide, have consistent flag placement and optimize chair placement.
- The issue of Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP) was discussed in numerous meetings. There was concern of people not having leashes and paddling out too far from shore. The Committee recommends the surf shops provide a pamphlet with safety guidelines. In addition, the Committee suggests the town explore guidelines for all SUP users based on safety and distance from the shore.

This report is submitted on November 20, 2014 and signed by:

Larry Rocha:  _____

Lori Carbajal: _____

Keper Connell: _____

Steve Hillman: _____