

Rye Beach Committee Report - 2016

The Rye Beach Committee consists of Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal, Keper Connell, and Steve Hillman. During the summer the Committee had two meetings where they discussed various issues and exchanged ideas based on their observations and conversations with residents and other beach goers. Chief Walsh attended both meetings and Chief Lambert attended one meeting.

Below is a list of the Committee's thoughts and recommendations:

- As the number of visitors to the beaches in Rye increases the issue of parking seems to be an issue with many of the residents of Rye. The Committee recommends: Increasing the parking fine to \$50, exploring "satellite parking with a fee" with shuttle buses to beach locations, providing bike racks at certain locations and kiosks be placed on Route 1A and the funds be used for funding beach management
- The Committee was charged with "counting and documenting" the number of cars that are parked while enjoying the beach. Parking seems to be the biggest issue for the residents of Rye. The committee received several e-mails and many residents expressed their frustration of cars parking "everywhere". The committee counted and documented the number of cars parked to enjoy the beaches of Rye. On both occasion the results were about the same. New Hampshire plates and Quebec plates were the most common with Massachusetts closely behind. For instance, in the Jenness Parking lot there was a total of 72 cars (NH = 25, Quebec = 23 with many being big vans and trucks); Perkins Road 19 cars (NH = 3, Quebec = 5, MA = 8) and along Rt 1A north from Jenness Beach (NH = 4, Quebec 24 with 20 being big RVs). The committee recommends having no parking west of Rt. 1A, parking along Rt. 1A only on the beach side and limiting the number of large RV and vans in the Jenness beach parking lot and along Rt. 1A. On a few occasions some residents witnessed people urinating on the side of the road. Most of these occasions were people from the large RVs.
- The committee recommends posting more "DO NOT LITTER" signs with a significant fine. Also, providing more trash cans on the beaches with more routine and regular trash pick-up.
- The Committee recommends that the state provide seasonal funding to manage the beach use increase.
- The Rye Beach Committee strongly recommends a Permit Application Fee of \$100 and a \$500 fee if a permit is issued to operate a business. The permit owners make money on Rye Beach and they should give back to the town.
- The Rye Beach Committee spent time at each meeting discussing the lifeguard system. Several recommendations were made about consistent flag placement and lifeguard training. The committee was told that the Fire Department and the lifeguards prefer the way they currently operate.