

Rye Beach Committee Report - 2017

The Rye Beach Committee consists of Larry Rocha, Lori Carbajal, Keper Connell, Steve Hillman and Brad Fulkerson. During the summer the Committee had three meetings where they discussed various issues and exchanged ideas based on their observations and conversations with residents and other beach goers. Chief Walsh attended all meetings and Lieutenant MacGlashing attended two 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 is a major concern with many of the residents of Rye. The Committee recommends: Increasing the parking fine to \$50, providing bike racks at certain locations and kiosks be placed on Route 1A and the funds be used for funding beach management. We would also recommend towing or booting some cars as a real deterrent to parking illegally. The \$30 ticket for illegally parking is not much of a deterrent to most visitors.
- The Committee was charged with "counting and documenting" the number of cars that are parked while enjoying the beach. As mentioned above, 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. This year the car counting was from Wallis Sands to Sawyers Beach. On both occasion the results were about the same. New Hampshire plates counted for about 40% of the cars, Quebec plates counted for about 35% of the cars and Massachusetts plates counted for about 20% of the cars. The count was different on Perkins Road (across from Jenness Beach) ... NH was 29%, Massachusetts was 14% and Quebec was 48%. Another problem was the considerable number of large vans and RVs that park in the parking lot at Jenness Beach and along Route 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.
- Beach Access points were another major topic discussed at the Rye Beach Committee meetings. Several members of the Committee did site walk to the various access points. Chief Walsh was very helpful with some of the legal aspects of some of the private way beach access points. Signs stating, "NO WAGONS, NO WHEELS" were posted by a few of the private ways beach access points. The Beach Committee asked for these signs to be removed. In one meeting, Sanders Poynt was the focus.
- The Rye Beach Committee also recommended that the number of beach fires on the beaches be limited and better enforcement of the clean up after the beach fire is extinguished. There were some of the fires that still had hot wood and the beach (especially at Sawyers Beach) was litter with burnt wood.
- Other topics covered in our meetings were: water quality, the Bath House at Jenness Beach and beach front owners (what is the property line and what activities are allowed in that area).
- Lastly, we focused on the potential danger of "drop-off and pick-up" for Summer Sessions Surf Camps along Route 1A. Cars parking on both sides of the road, taking up parking spaces for the residents with beach parking stickers, and the danger of children walking across the road when the parents drop them off for the camp. The Rye Beach Committee felt that the owners of Summer Sessions should come up with a plan to have the drop-off and pick-up to be at Summer Sessions Surf Shop.