

Rye Beach Committee Report:

Date: July 4, 2018

Time: 9:00 – 9:30 AM and 1:00 – 1:30 PM

Weather: 86 degrees and sunny

Submitted by: Larry Rocha

General Observations at 9:00 AM:

At 9:00 AM the crowds were not too bad. There were only a few cars that were parked illegally: one at Sawyers (no sticker ... no ticket), one on Perkins Road (at the corner of Pine Street and Big Rock Road by the stop sign before you make the right to go to the beach ... the driver got on a skateboard and went down Perkins Road to the beach) and one on Rt. 1A (partly parked in a No Park area by a driveway). There were several open spots by Sawyers Beach, spots on Rt. 1A and most of the legal spots on Perkins Road were filled by around 9:15 AM but there were no cars parked in the NO PARKING area (felt like the new sign was working).



Surf Camp Observations 9:00 AM:

Before the surf camp, I noticed numerous cars and a truck parking on the Eel Pond side of Rt. 1A unloading and crossing Rt. 1A and then making a U-Turn to go north on Rt. 1A. One truck actually parked on the Eel Pond side of the road for over two hours (had a ticket).



Before the surf camp, I also witnessed numerous cars unloading on the north side of Rt. 1A. As many as six cars at a time and most stayed “parked” for over fifteen minutes. If a resident drove by with a proper sticker they could be eliminated from parking to enjoy Sawyers Beach.

When the truck came from the Summer Sessions Shop around 9:05 AM they went past Sawyers Beach and did a turn around on Sea Road. Once the truck parked a staff member from the camp got out of the truck with a safety vest on and immediately went to the south side of Rt. 1A and began to direct traffic to keep moving and not stopping to park on the Eel Pond side of Rt. 1A. I did notice a couple of cars heading down to Sea Road to turn around. The process of starting camp seemed to be running smoothly.

General Observations at 1:00 PM:

By 1:00 PM things were much different. Cars were parking all over the place. Below are several examples:

- At the intersection of Perkins Road, Big Rock Road and Pine Street there were now two cars parked by the stop sign.



- I noticed as I drove along Big Rock Road there were NO PARKING painted on the road. As I moved past Pine Street there was also NO PARKING painted on Perkins Road up to Maple Avenue. Past Maple Avenue there was no signage on the road and many cars were parking along Perkins Road on both sides.



- Last year, there were many cars (sometimes as many as 20 cars) parked on Maple Avenue. No cars were parked on Maple Avenue this year as the result of people on Maple Avenue putting up signs that say NO PARKING ... VEHICLE WILL BE TOWED AWAY AT OWNER EXPENSE. The possibility of being towed is a real deterrent. I noticed today (Thursday, July 5) that there were the same signs in front of a few houses on Perkins Road.



2017

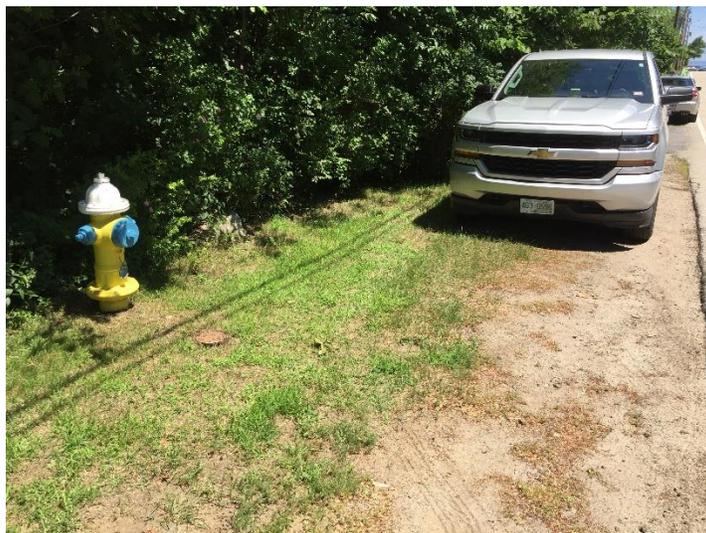


2018

- There were cars parked on Rt. 1A south along the fence by the Dunes Motel that were loading and unloading and then crossing Rt. 1 A to enter Jenness Beach by the bathrooms. One lady almost got hit by a car because she was not looking.



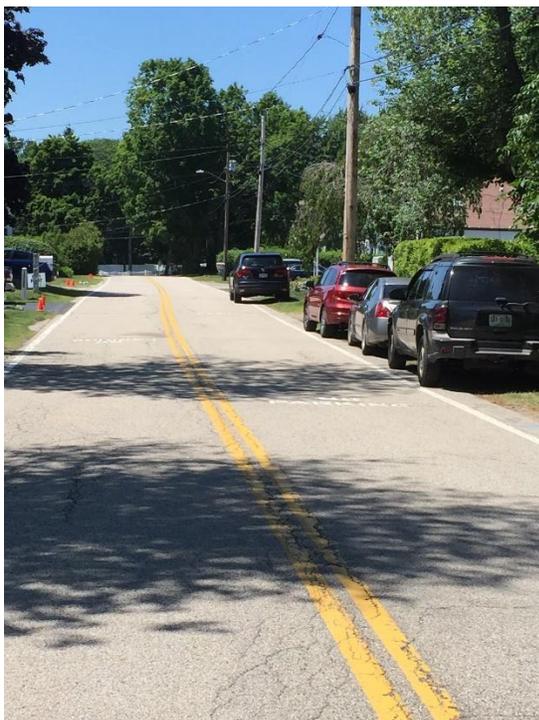
- There was a truck parking on Perkins Road (heading away from the beach) that was parking very close to a fire hydrant. I actually called the Rye Police Department to see if the truck could be towed as it would be a hazard if there was a fire and the Fire Department needed access to the fire hydrant.



- At 1:00 PM the sign on Perkins ... NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER was no longer effective as it was at 9:00 AM.



- Cars were also parked on both sides of Perkins Road. Many residents have resorted to putting up cones at the end of their driveways to stop cars from pulling into their driveway (many times at a good speed) to turn around to find a parking spot. Cars are not allowed to park on the side of Perkins Road (heading away from the beach) but many cars still park and sometimes put a note on the windshield saying they are visiting. I can tell you from experience that this is rarely the case. If a resident is having a party, they should inform the Rye Police and provide the license plate number of those cars parking on the side of the road in front of their homes. Some cars even park going the wrong way.



- At 1:00 PM, I noticed many cars that double parked going north bound on Rt. 1 A some of which were parked half way in the lane while they loaded and unloaded. This was a real safety issue for people getting out of the car and the cars driving past. I also noticed more cars that did not have a Rye Beach Parking sticker. Most of these cars were ticketed but in my experience with telling people that they will get a ticket, they ask, “how much” and they do not care.



Surf Camp Observations 1:00 PM:

What I observed at 1:00 PM was basically the same at the 9:00 AM surf camp. I felt Summer Sessions did a good job with moving cars along and not letting cars unload on the Eel Pond side of Rt. 1 A.

Some other Notes:

- When I drove north on Rt. 1 A later that night (July 4th) I noticed people left some trash on both sides of the Rt. 1 A.



- Parking on other roads east of Rt. 1 A also had some cars parked illegally but it did not seem as bad as Perkins Road or the Jenness Beach and Sawyers Beach area.
- On both sides of Rt. 1 A there were cars parked all the way from Jenness Beach to passed Petey’s Summertime Seafood with no legal spots available. There were not many Canadian cars and big RVs parking along Rt. 1 A as July 4th is not a Canadian holiday but usually this is an issue on weekends.

Not sure exactly how we can fix some of these issues. The difficulty is being in the right place at the right time to catch people discarding trash, double parking, parking in handicapped spots to load and unload, parking illegally, etc. The town is doing a good job of ticketing cars parked illegally but the Rye Beach Committee does not think ticketing deters people from parking illegally. We have suggested increasing the fine, booting or even towing cars. We understand there are some complications with several methods and there are “unintended consequences” but the parking issue is one of the main complaints from Rye residents.