

9-14-20 Corres. Item A

August 31, 2020

Re: Parking restrictions – Jenness Beach and surrounding area.

Board of Selectmen:

My husband and I have been seasonal residents of Rye for 30 years and eventually hope to make this our permanent home when we retire.

This summer, COVID-19 has cast a dark cloud over every community, including Rye. Without a doubt, the impact of the virus on public health and the economy has been devastating. However, there has been one unexpected silver lining – parking. The parking restrictions implemented due to COVID have returned the beach to years past - little automobile congestion, less crowded but still busy beaches, quiet and safer roads and seemingly more local residents enjoying the coast. While I completely understand these parking restrictions are an extreme that will not continue, the last few years of extremely liberal parking regulations have also been an extreme.

We all look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when we can comfortably resume life the way we knew it before the pandemic. But when that day comes, I hope the Board will consider keeping some of the temporary parking restrictions in the Jenness Beach area. I'm not suggesting a total ban on parking on Route 1A. But there are a number of measures that could be considered:

1. Limiting parking on 1A to one side of the road allowing one shoulder to be used as a safe buffer for beachgoers, walkers, runners and cyclists.
2. Designating more parking spots for Rye residents.
3. Restricting parking on the local side streets providing privacy for homeowners and allowing for 2-way traffic to return to these roads and pedestrians to have more space to walk and bike safely to the beach/local businesses and around their neighborhoods.
4. Revisiting the proximity of the parking spaces on either side of the driveways on Route 1A. As it stands now, for most of us, if a car is parked in a designated spot that abuts our driveways, it is impossible for us to exit our property without sticking the nose of our car into the street. Visibility is even worse if a camper or large SUV is parked in one of these spots. I've attached pictures below showing just how perilous the situation can be. As you can see, I am completely blinded from oncoming traffic and cyclists. This is unfortunately an everyday occurrence for me and many of my neighbors during the busy summer months. It is just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. While limiting these spots to sedans would help, eliminating the spots between driveways altogether would be far safer for everyone involved.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Kindest Regards,



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