

Our Mission

To support the Town of Rye by making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen based on objective observations in the areas of beach safety and the environment and related concerns of Rye residents and public beachgoers.

Our Goals

- To promote safe, healthy and clean use of the Rye town beaches
- To ensure the voice and concerns of Rye residents are heard and general concerns are addressed
- To ensure there is fair and equitable access to Rye beaches
- To work in partnership with the Board of Selectmen, the police, fire and public works departments in the execution of Our Mission

Commercial Activities on the Beach

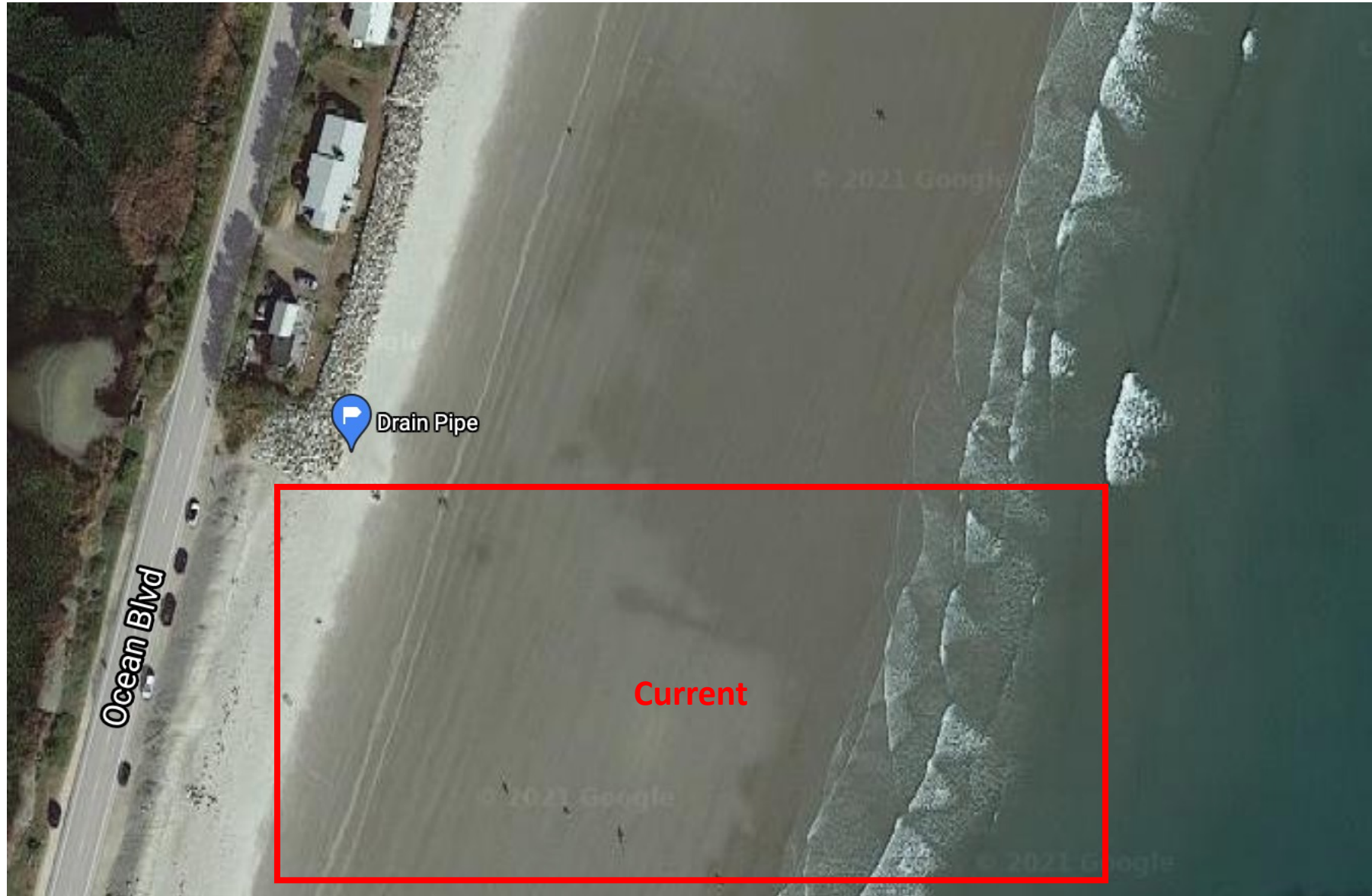
Attached is a summary of recommendations and questions to the BOS based on the complaints raised over the last summer (and beyond).

The Committee is looking to try to find a balance with the town and commercial enterprises. The Committee is concerned that if nothing changes there may be a call to ban all commercial enterprises from town beaches. The Committee has reached out to local commercial enterprises as well as the Police and Fire Chief.

Recommendations: All Commercial Activities

- Ask/Ensure commercial enterprises provide some measure of “common good” e.g. Beach cleanup, trash pickup, fund awareness initiatives, donate/sponsor town events, support lifeguards, create scholarship for Rye residents for summer camp or other lessons
 - *Based on previous research and contacting 11 other programs all require Permits and Fees, which help to regulate as well as offset town costs*
 - *(It is noted that Summer Sessions has offered discounts to the Rye fire department for wetsuits. Common Roots works actively with the PTA on its programs like the mindfulness yoga at Parsons Field).*
- Consider not allowing commercial vehicles to have beach permits
- Confirm or clarify the zoning regulations at Sawyers via Board of Selectman and/or article in next election (have been told that Sawyers is zoned as non commercial)
- Stricter enforcement of pickup/drop off regulations.

Current location: Surf Camp



Recommendations: Surf Camps

- Remove consistent Commercial vehicle aka Truck at Sawyers. Allow Commercial vehicle to pick up and drop off gear only during summer prime hours, having alternative “safety” vehicle or method to be on site (based on parking committee recommendations).
- Mandate the creation of an emergency plan to account for potential accidents and share that plan to the greater public.
- Utilize a walkie talkie like lifeguards to use for communication / accidents since cell phone service is bad at Sawyers vs relying on driving a vehicle to their shop to communicate.
- Ensure coaches and staff are clear that limiting/restricting Rye residents to park or limit anyone else to partake and enjoy the ocean or beach for swimming, surfing or boogie boarding will not be tolerated and will result in repercussions.
- Continue to limit sessions to 15-20 students per session or only have sessions once a day (aka AM or PM not both) or diversify location of camps (e.g. move some to Jenness) OR
- Move base of operations to North of Drain Pipe aka “Browns Cottages” (Recommended by both Police and Fire Chiefs)

(Committee acknowledges this summer that 15 students and having lessons North of the Drain Pipe aka Browns Cottage area created more harmony)

- Recommend additional curriculum options be added to the current surf camp curriculum, incl intermediate or advanced lessons, ocean safety education, beach clean ups, etc.

Recommendations: Surf Camps



Background

Beach Committee has received multiple complaints and inquiries about Commercial Activities. Coming out of the Beach Committee meetings and discussion with Tyler McGill at Summer Sessions Surf Shop to rescind the Right to Know (RTK), the Beach Committee has summarized the concerns that have come up via various forms of communication.

These concerns are summarized here.

Complaints

- Beaches are not for making money
- The truck takes up two plus parking spots at Sawyers
- Coaches have told Rye residents in the water and beach the time (M to F) in the water is only for Surf Camps by permit
- Staff has told residents they cannot park at the northernmost spot at Sawyers as it is for the commercial truck (aside from the lifeguard parking)
- Surf camps use town resources including lifeguards, DPW, police for commercial, for-profit benefit without giving anything back to the town
- Business(es) do not give back. Take, take, take then disappear for the winter after they have made their money
- There is not enough space safely in the water for residents to surf, boogie board, swim, etc.
- My child was hit by one of their boards.
- Commercial vehicles should not have parking permits when we don't have enough space for our residents to park.

Complaints

- They do not support the town, its initiatives, etc. Why should we allow them to use our town beaches?
- Town beaches are zoned non-commercial. Why are they allowed to host for-profit camps?
- Truck draws undue attention to Sawyers aka non-residents parking at town beach
- The camps take up tons of space on beach, forcing residents who are already there to move
- In past years, documented over permitted 30 surf campers per session (quote was over 50 in 2019 sessions)
- The camps create additional trash on the beach from camps. Why not do beach clean ups?
- There is no education on surf etiquette / protocol or keeping beach clean, create dangerous environments for kids, parents and anyone else in the water
- There is no path to progression like other sports, just beginner programs. Not creating proficient surfers just floating “buoys”
- The camps promote pick up drop off, parking on eel pond side of 1A which are both illegal at town beaches

Questions

- Why can't the camps not run at Jenness? Or walk from the surf shop versus using truck and conducting pick up drop off at Sawyers?
- Why can't the truck not drop off boards and then pick up boards at end of day? Why does it need to take up two spots all day every day?
- Is the town liable with surf camp accidents/injuries since the town approved a permit for them and do they have an emergency plan in place for these incidents?

Photos 2018



Photos 2018



Photos 2018



Photos 2018

