

Beach and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Meeting Place: Zoom Video Conferencing

Members Present: Rob Card (Chair), Mary Patricia Nardino (Vice Chair), Vince Dussich, Pamela Greene and Shane Kokoruda.

Others Present: Scot Erskine (Director of Beach & Rec), First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Linda LaSance (Assistant Director) and Bruce Wilson (BOS Liaison)

Rob called the meeting at 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes- Tabled until next meeting.

Public Comments- Selectwoman Peggy Lyons provided an overview of the organizational plan that Beach & Rec has. She shared slides from a power point that she did for the Board of Selectman's meeting. She talked about the employee retirement plan that is in place. She mentioned having the Beach & Rec Department merge with the Senior Services Department. She talked about merging the staff to make sure that the new merger would benefit both departments and also to make sure that the programs can still run like they always have. Bruce agreed with what First Selectwoman Lyons was discussing. He mentioned the two departments merging together and how that would work and what would need to be done.

Chair's Comments- Rob talked about speaking to Ed Dowling from the Police Department. He talked about the commission making good progress with the discussions that they have on a monthly basis and the decisions that are being made. He wants to make sure that the commission knows everything that is going on when it comes to the budget process just so that everyone is informed.

Election of Officers- Nomination for Chair: Vince nominates Rob as Chair person. Shane seconded the nomination. All members present were in favor. Nomination for Vice Chair: Pam nominates Mary Patricia as Vice Chair. Rob seconded the nomination. All members present were in favor.

2021 Meeting Dates- MP approved the 2021 meeting dates. Pam seconded. All members present were in favor.

Director's Report- Scot updated the commission stating that the beach and rec department is still virtual. He is staggering shifts. He mentioned that the department posted on the Town website jobs for seasonal employment. The department cannot do

much programming at all he mentioned. He mentioned the gym will not be available for programs for at least a while due to spacing and distancing issues. They are looking into doing the drive-in movies again along with the concerts this year. They were very successful last year. The grounds crew are busy repairing picnic tables and making boat racks to get ahead for the summer season. There was a discussion on the grounds crew and who takes care of the snow plowing in certain areas in town.

Old Business- There was a discussion if there is a need to have places fully staffed 7 days a week. The thinking is to have places fully staffed 7 days a week and if restrictions due to COVID get lifted then the committee can make the decision to go back to the 5 days a week staffing. There was a discussion on the fees and how to get that information to the Board of Selectman and how to make them understand the cost of things. The committee also discussed how to get this information out to the public.

New Business- 2021 Fee Schedule: The previous fee scheduled was discussed. East Wharf was discussed because of the limited amount of parking that is there. A discussion of the other beaches and how the beach passes would work for non-residents when Hammonasset Beach is filled to capacity. The parking was a discussion for East and West Wharf Beach. The time line for when the beach passes would be sold was discussed the Board of Selectman. There was a discussion that senior pricing and veteran pricing should stay the same and not go up in price for this year. MP motioned to table approving the new fee schedule. Shane seconded the motion. All members present were in favor.

Public Comments- None

Adjournment- The meeting ended at 9:30pm. MP motioned to end the meeting. Shane approved the motion. All members present were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Panzo