

**Madison Beach and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Workshop Meeting, October 15, 2019**

In attendance: Rob Card, Mary Pat Nardino, Pam Greene, Vince Dussich, Shane Kokoruda, Scot Erskine (Director)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Card at 7:01 p.m.

Before addressing the meeting agenda, MP Nardino pointed out that the next Commission meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 5 which is election day. Commission members agreed to meet the following Tuesday on November 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

I. Discussion regarding the 2020 Beach Season

A. Beach Admittance Update:

1. The beach parking system itself is different from determining who gets into the beach parking areas.
2. Resident only parking should be taken off the table because of possible lawsuits.
3. First step is determining what worked in 2019 and what Passport can provide to address problems and make improvements for 2020.

Motion by Vince Dussich for the Beach & Recreation Commission to forward to the Board of Selectmen for their approval as part of the overall Beach and Recreation Parking proposal/recommendation for the 2020 season that all Madison residents will be able to use all Madison beaches for the 2020 season with a beach pass sticker that will be attached to the inside driver's side window. **Second** by Shane Kokoruda for sake of discussion.

Discussion:

- Motion in response to public comments at meetings from those who liked and preferred having physical parking stickers for residents. It would be a safer approach.
- Stickers didn't work as well for staff from an enforcement perspective.
- Would be wrong to go back to the old system without trying to address the problems with the new system based on the lessons we learned.
- Need to distinguish between the poor implementation of the new parking system and the system itself which did have merits.
- We should try new system with improvements for the coming year including a better user experience during the purchasing process – clearer confirmations and ease in adding multiple vehicles.
- Improvements over the old system include convenient 24/7 online purchasing, ease of enforcement, and greater customer service satisfaction in being able to purchase passes and resolve tickets immediately at the Surf Club office.
- Problems to address include: online user experience in the purchasing process, lack of staff training before going public, accuracy of license plate scanning, improving cell phone service at beaches especially the Surf Club, better signage and communications, adequate testing of the system.
- We might learn from other communities who use this system to see what makes it work for them.

- Need for a Plan B with a clear timeframe and criteria for determining that the new system is no longer feasible and we need to implement Plan B (would most likely consider using a sticker system).

Vote: 1 aye (Dussich) and 4 opposed (Card, Nardino, Kokoruda, Greene). The motion failed.

Motion by Shane Kokoruda that we leverage the existing system with improvements and a request from Scot to present at the December meeting a final schedule and system improvement plan. **Second** by MP Nardino.

After discussing the necessary improvements and recognizing that we needed additional information from Passport regarding their capabilities before making a judgement and taking a vote, the **motion was withdrawn** by Shane Kokoruda.

Scot and Rob will report back to the Commission regarding Passport's ability to make needed technical adjustments and improvements. (Meeting with Passport is upcoming.) We will look to make final recommendations by the December meeting.

B. Lifeguard Requirements, Financial Needs

1. Gate guards were discussed first. Scot Erskine's recommendation for Gate Guards:
 - a. West Wharf Beach: 8 AM to 8 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day
 - b. East Wharf Beach: 10 AM to 5 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day
 - c. Surf Club: Weekends 10 AM to 5:30 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day and fully staffed on holiday weekends and the 4th of July
2. Lifeguards: Points of discussion
 - a. Scot will come back to the Commission with alternatives for staffing lifeguards including the cost for each option.
 - b. Scot answered questions about how lifeguards were staffed at Madison beaches in the past.
 - c. The Commission discussed the possibility of paying for or reimbursing the cost of open water lifeguard certification as an incentive for recruiting and retaining qualified lifeguards at Madison beaches. Would leave this up to the person responsible for recruiting and managing the lifeguard staff to make recommendations.
 - d. Need to have clear benchmarks and guidelines for performance reviews.
 - e. Need to establish the minimum number of qualified lifeguards necessary to provide lifeguard services without putting the Town at risk.
 - f. Members of the Commission recognized the need for a Waterfront Manager to oversee recruitment and training of qualified lifeguards, to manage and supervise the lifeguard staff during the beach season, and to provide ongoing evaluation and performance reviews for lifeguard staff.

Motion by MP Nardino that the Beach & Recreation Commission make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that we support enhanced efforts to hire lifeguards for the upcoming beach season and recommend the hiring of a Waterfront Manager for the purpose of recruiting and managing lifeguard staff for Madison town beaches. **Second** by Shane Kokoruda.'

After discussion about the need to begin the recruitment process as soon as possible, and the role of the Commission and its ability to set policy and make recommendations, MP Nardino amended the motion.

Amended motion by MP Nardino to recommend and advise the Director of the Beach & Recreation Department to hire a Waterfront Manager with the responsibilities to recruit and manage lifeguard staff at Madison town beaches. This recommendation is to support the increased effort to provide qualified lifeguards in response to public concerns. **Second** by Shane Kokoruda.

Vote: All in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

- II. Set next workshop date: The next meeting is on November 12, 2019.
- III. Annual Report Guidelines: Not covered
- IV. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn** by Vince Dussich, second by MP Nardino, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Greene, Secretary

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL