

TOWN OF RYE
BEACH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall & Via Zoom

Committee Present: *Chair Mary-Ann Sullivan, Vice-Chair Mary Connolly-Mitchell, Joan Zofnass, and Anne Robert*

Others: Resident Carla Cole

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes – 11/20/2023

Chair Sullivan moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023. All were in favor.

IV. ADA Compliant & Resident Porta Potty – Carla Cole, Rye Resident

Carla Cole met with the Beach Committee to discuss her request for an ADA compliant porta potty at the beach. She noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires provisions for public accommodations, which includes the need for a wheelchair friendly porta potty. She pointed out that the beaches at Pirate’s Cove and Cable are not public beaches, as they are private town beaches. There isn’t a real designation for requiring this type of porta potty. Also, there are less than twenty porta potties at these two beaches. If there were more, the Town would be required to provide at least one ADA compliant porta potty. Both Pirate’s Cove and Cable have two standard porta potties. She is proposing to replace one of them with an ADA compliant porta potty. The ADA compliant potties would also accommodate older people with disabilities and parents with children that have developmental needs, who are not able to go into the current porta potties with their children. The larger space of an ADA compliant porta potty would allow parents to access the facilities with their young children. Ms. Cole continued that ADA compliant guidelines are more specific than handicapped accessible restrooms. Aside from being more detailed, these regulations encompass all disabled individuals, not just those who need to travel with or operate a wheelchair. ADA also applies to seeing and hearing impaired individuals, pregnant individuals, and seniors.

Ms. Cole noted that when she brought this up at the select board meeting, there was discussion about the need for the Town to build a lockable enclosure for the porta potty. She pointed out there would be a twenty-inch difference in overall size with the height being the same as what's there now. She also pointed out that the Town currently owns the porta potties they have now. She suggested at the select board meeting that they consider renting an ADA porta potty for the summer, which would be approximately two hundred dollars a month, including service. The expense for the Town would be building the enclosure. There was also discussion at the select board meeting about the need to build a ramp for access. Ms. Cole commented that this issue does not directly affect her family; however, the entire community should be served at the town beaches.

After discussion, it was agreed that Chair Sullivan should write a letter to the Select Board in support of Ms. Cole's proposal for ADA compliant porta potties.

V. Resident requests to maintain dog waste barrels at Cable and Pirates

The Committee agreed that the waste barrels should continue at Cable and Pirates.

VI. Projection for each access points after storms

Chair Sullivan commented that she doesn't think there will be any problems with access to the beach this summer, as it seems DPW is doing a good job of cleaning up after the recent storms. She suggested that the Committee keep checking the access points and take feedback from residents who may be having issues.

**VII. DPW – Update for beach access points for website
G Street – Public Access**

The Committee briefly discussed the need to update the information on the Town's website with regard to the beach access points.

**VIII. Input received from members to move meeting to 1st Monday of month
March 4th with Surfrider – water sampling, results & process**

It was agreed to move the monthly meetings to the first Monday of the month, starting the month of March. Surfrider will be attending the March 4th meeting to discuss the water sampling process.

IX. April 1st – Date for terms ending – renew/resign by March 4, 2024

Member Connolly-Mitchell will be ending her term on the Committee this year and will not be seeking reappointment.

X. Other/New Business

There was some discussion about tentatively scheduling a beach cleanup during the April school vacation week. Chair Sullivan noted that one was scheduled for April vacation last year and parents with children came, which was a nice turnout. She suggested focusing on Cable this year.

- **Next meeting:** Monday, March 4th, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Adjournment

Motion by Mary Connolly-Mitchell to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Joan Zofnass. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger