

Minutes of the Beach Commission: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

In attendance

Peter Kane

Michael Labrie

Ed Mallen

Called to order at 10:05

Members of the beach commission recited pledge of Allegiance.

Move Mike Labrie as Chairman, Peter Kane as Vice Chair, Ed Mallen as Secretary.

Vote taken and approved on the positions.

New Business:

Reviewed the reply of a letter to a patron. Approved for the response to be sent.

Discussion about surfing in Rye. Commissioners agreed to reach out to the local surf shops to explain the surfing regulations to the shop owners. Commissioners agreed to research the surf camps that operate in Rye. The intent is to have the shops understand the rules and work with the commissioners. The intention is a) dissemination of rules b) make a recommendation to the Selectman about the liability issues with town. Fact gathering mode (number of camps, frequency, etc.)

Brenda and Frank McDermott: Wrote to the Commission asking why there are signs at F street and none is on G street, Michael committed to look into it.

Colette Irvin of Rye asked why there is no sign in the crosswalk in front of the Rye General Store. Michael committed to speak with Public Works and find out why the state was not placing a sign there (there are signs at Cable Road and in the front of Jenness Beach.

The commissioners then discussed the great working relationship with the Fire Department and Public Works. Both departments have been very helpful and responsive getting ready for opening day of the beaches. They are to be commended for the spirit of cooperation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am



Town of Rye Beach Commission  
10 Central Road  
Rye, New Hampshire 03810

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Ms. Margaret Shirley  
One Brookside Drive,  
Stratham, New Hampshire 03885

Dear Ms. Shirley

Thank you for taking the time to send your letter to the Rye Town Selectmen on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. We appreciate the time and trouble you took to record your thoughts and make your recommendations. We are replying to your letter as the Town of Rye Beach Commission with Michael Labrie as the Chairman.

Let's take your comments one by one and address them:

- Lifeguard attentiveness:
  - First, the supervising lifeguard, Colin Drake, has been made aware of this concern and it has been addressed directly with him. At our orientation meeting earlier in June we reviewed the improved performance we want to see in 2011. We as commissioners stressed the importance of attention by the guards at the beach and discussed what needs to be done to improve this. All of the lifeguards are aware of our concerns and it is expected that they will improve their performance in this area.
  - Additionally, the Commissioners worked with the Fire Department to reconfigure the lifeguard chairs so that only one guard can occupy the seat at a time. This ensures that two guards will not be in the chair "chatting" while they are observing the water.
- Surfing:
  - We have also reviewed this with the guards. To be clear it is the guard's responsibility to inform the patron the infraction (surfing within 50' of swimmers, surfing inside of the flags, surfing without a leash, etc.). If the

patron does not respond, and the guard considers it a real issue, he or she can summon the police to respond to enforce the rule.

- Additionally, we will work with the local surf shops to have printed copies of the regulations in the Surf Shops. We want to make sure the surfers are aware of the Rye regulations. We also expect the guards to be speaking with surfers as they enter the water informing them of the boundaries and safety issues.

Your suggestions have been helpful and we want to assure you that we have been and will continue to take positive steps to allay your concerns and those of other beachgoers.

Below please find the names and email addresses of the Beach Commissioners. We hope that you have an enjoyable 2011 summer at the beaches in Rye.

Yours truly,

*EWYM for Michael Labrie*  
Michael Labrie  
Chairman, Town of Rye Beach Commission

Town of Rye Commissioners:

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