

MEETING MINUTES

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT **Municipal Design Committee**

May 21, 2015

Time: 7:00p to 9:00p

Location: Swampscott High School, Room B129

Present:	Rick Rawlins, Vice-Chair John McLaughlin, Member Pete Kane, Town Planner And over 50 residents	Susan Balleza, Member Jer Jurma, Member Andrew Steingiser, Member
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Meeting Opened at 7:00

SWAMPSCOTT BEACH FORUM

Presentation and welcoming given by Town Planner.

Jer Jurma walked the audience through an overview of the beach marker project, vision, selection process on stone type, design ideas for the markers, and some visual sketches of the design process.

Andrew Steingiser then introduced the audience to the larger project. He explained that as they were working on the designs for the markers, there was a realization that the space these markers would be located needed further attention. He then presented design ideas to redo the beach entrances by showing examples of Fisherman’s, Whale’s and Phillips beached.

At the end of the presentations, the committee opened the floor to questions of the audience:

QUESTION/COMMENT

RESPONSE

How do we get equipment to the beaches?

Working with the DPW. The planters are not that high. At Fisherman's there are other ramps. The curbs can be driven over.

Will the entrance to Eiseman's be at the drive or near the former pool?

Our initial thought was to locate it near the drive but we are now flexible.

Will neighbors be able to see the sketches those beaches not presented tonight?

Yes.

Can you explain the planters? Concerned. Needs to pull the boats out in an emergency. Also pulls the boats at the end of season with DPW. Takes the boats out one at a time.

Tell us what access is necessary. Observe this summer.

How often do people illegally drive on the beach?

We don't know how much of a liability. Some entry chains are down at all times. We have not heard of an instance. The yacht club drives on the sand to set up for their bonfire.

We have direct view of the porta potty at Phillips. What can be done? Perhaps an enclosure.

A permanent facility was discussed but is out of scope. The town did purchase land near Palmer pond but there are issues plumbing near a wetland. An enclosure could not limit access to the pumping company. Level ground for the existing toilet would be nice. We need to do research to know what is allowed.

Comment: Thank you. Town hasn't cared about the beaches.

I attended a state-wide open space meeting. Norwood has done good job with trail system. They have focused on the entrances to foster respect. Our plans reinforce the goal of respect the beaches. How will the pavers Stand up to wave action?

There will be a substrate and the manufacturer of the pavers can advise us. The paver edge will be softer than the sketch shows. The current entrance is a buried asphalt drive and the sand will impact the pavers similarly.

Suggestion: Love the ideas. Would love to have play structures even at one beach.

Suggestion: Consolidate regulatory signage and position it low to not obstruct view and to be readable. Dog poop containers shouldn't go away.

Suggestion: Improve warnings for when the beach is closed for bacteria.

Is there anything that guarantees that the shower and bike racks will be usable over time? The current racks can't be used because grass grows into them.

No guarantee but we could put the racks on a surface. The DPW is already taxed. We are looking for a low maintenance improvement.

Is this the time to consider additional storage for boats?

Harbor Advisory is considering additional storage. Meeting on the 18th at the police station.

Are there regulations prohibiting boat storage at other beaches?

Maybe not but historically neighbors will object. Threaten lawsuit.

What about the other entrance at Fisherman's?

We hadn't considered the other entrance until we discussed it with harbor advisory. Now that we have a palette we can deploy them at other entrances.

Comment: The condition of the beach is deplorable. Cleanliness. Toward King's Beach the walkway and seawall are dilapidated.

From Jackson Schultz: Town meeting just approved purchase of a beach rake. It can also be dragged on grass to dig holes. The seawall is our responsibility. Parts of it have been repointed.

From Jer Jurma: The condition of the beaches is clearly bad. Design affects people's behavior and we hope the entrances will have an impact.

Comment: Access. Disability Commission needs to be advised.

Yes. The town could purchase a beach wheelchair.

Comment: The boardwalk improves access. It should be left. Preston Beach is difficult because of the rocks.

Comment: We have discussed adding handicapped matting to improve accessibility.

What about execution?

The project will be broken into two phases. We will revise plans based on feedback, contact appropriate committees, establish a budget, and submit plans to the BoS. Timing for markers is this summer. The schedule for expanded entrances depends on fundraising.

How will the markers be anchored? Can they be tipped by teens?

We are exploring a modified version of the sun circle installation technique. They are far too heavy to be moved.

Trash receptacle enclosures good. Will they be

We haven't discussed additional beaches.

part of beaches other than Phillips? Important to include recycling.

Can we add the Town seal or a logo on the stone?

Formally branding the town is a larger issue that we hope to address with the larger signage initiative. The markers will probably not include branding.

Can the carving on the markers act as Braille?

No. Braille is raised.

Which view of the marker is favored when the beach can be approached from more than one direction?

We need to verify. Type placed on two corners will help. These are not meant to direct vehicular traffic.

Can this presentation be put online?

Yes.

Are the edges of the granite blocks too sharp?

The stone will be flamed not honed or polished.

Comment: Is there a way to put an emergency phone at the entrance? Also, the railing at King's is not safe.

The Committee and participants then thanked the beach marker donor, Mark Gelfand.

Meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.