

Beach Committee - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Location: Online Remotely – Zoom Video Conference

<https://zoom.us/j/97998159310>

Meeting ID#: 979 9815 9310

Meeting recorded for later access

Present:

Paul Miskovsky, Beach Committee Chairman

Jeff Billard, Beach Committee Member

Margie Mitchell, Beach Committee Member

Maggie Clayton, Acting Beach Superintendent

Jennifer Rodger, Beach Coordinator

Absent:

Dan Shearer, Beach Committee Member

Visitors:

Debbie Scott, Falmouth Heights Maravista Neighborhood Association Co-President

Taylor B

Bruce Mogardo

Agenda:

1. Call to Order (7:04 p.m. by Paul)
2. Approve Meeting [Minutes](#) from 7/15 (Second from Margie)
3. New Beach Committee Town e-mail address for Correspondence
4. Correspondence
5. Public Comment
6. Discussion/Vote on Appointment of Committee Vice-Chair
7. Acting Superintendent's Report
 - a. Staff Reduction
 - b. Awards Night (virtual banquet on Zoom)
 - c. Capital Plan Report
8. Committee Members' Comments

New Beach Committee Town e-mail address for Correspondence:

- Falmouth Information Technology Department has created an e-mail account for each Town committee
- New Beach Committee email address - beachcommittee@falmouthma.gov

Correspondence:

- One e-mail received on Sunday, August 9 from Richard Baher re: entry to Surf Dr. & Mill Rd. parking lots
 - Communication sent to capenews.net; Chair of the Select Board & Beach Committee were copied
 - Maggie shared there was an extreme crowding concern around 1:00 p.m. & a decision was made by Town Manager's office, Health Dept. & FPD to not allow any cars into Surf Dr./Mill Rd. lots
 - Committee recommended sharing the 1-5 social distancing rubric specifics on the Dept. website

Public Comment: (From the Zoom Chat)

Chat Question #1: Debbie Scott - "Interested in Falmouth Heights closure due to bacteria."

- Maggie's Response
 - Water gets tested by Barnstable County Health Dept. lab...needs to fail 2x in a row to close beach
 - When Falmouth Heights failed retest, a NotifyMe push notification was sent out by the Beach Dept. and lifeguard staff communicated the information to all patrons on the beach
 - Notification stickers were posted on 5 lifeguard chairs and 1 parking attendant booth

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- Staff member in P.A. booth communicated to patrons entering the lot that the water quality failed and current “swim at your own risk” status

Chat Question #2: Debbie Scott - “How often does this occur in Town? Is there a cause?”

- Maggie’s Response
 - Falmouth Heights was the second failure this season (first failure at Woodneck during preseason)
 - Exceedance of bacteria could be due to rainfall or tidal change

Discussion/Vote on Appointment of Committee Vice-Chair:

- Paul
 - Would like more members for the committee; more important than naming vice-chair
- Margie
 - Believes they’re allowed up to 7 members; with current 4, supports more members AND co-chair
 - Made a motion to elect a vice-chair and nominated Jeff Billard (Paul seconded); vote unanimous

Acting Superintendent’s Report:

a. Staff Reduction

- COVID-19 outbreak caused some shortages on lifeguard side of operation with no impact on P.A. numbers
- July 24th last day all 10 beaches staffed with lifeguards; since then up to 8 beaches staffed with guards daily
- Maggie meets daily with supervisors when making schedules to review staffing needs as employees leave

b. Awards Night (virtual banquet on Zoom)

- End-of-summer celebration took place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18th
- 4 Ellen T. Mitchell scholarship winners and 13 other awards presented to outstanding staff members
- Ruffled off 38 gift certificates in \$5 and \$10 denominations

c. Capital Plan Report

- Jen worked with Maggie on this plan to identify Dept. needs for next 10 years; Bruce Mogardo consulted
- Project quotes/estimates were sought out when preparing this plan
- Item #1 - Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse Door Thresholds; make 4 beach facing doors ADA compliant
- Item #2 - Windows at Old Silver Bathhouses; improved ventilation necessary & support security of building
- Item #3 - Beach Department Vehicle; 9 supervisors currently share 1 Town vehicle
- Item #4 - Woodneck Beach Interior Fence and Car Stops
- Item #5 - Bristol Beach Exterior Fence
- Item #6 - Old Silver Beach (public & resident) Stairs
- Item #7 - Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse windows
- Item #8 - Handicap Mats; “accessibility for all” at the forefront of the Capital Plan

Committee Members’ Comments:

- Paul
 - Successful summer overall; people happy with extended P.A. hours at Old Silver & Chapoquoit
- Margie
 - Since last meeting sent cards from the Beach Committee to Bruce Mogardo & Charlie LoGiudice
 - Would like to be notified about beach closures, COVID-19 related information, and rescues
 - Would like an update moving forward about the Beach Dept. Superintendent position
- Jeff
 - Glad the glass was installed at the Ellen T. Mitchell Bathhouse
 - Congratulations to everyone on a great job this season

- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
 - Motion by Paul, seconded by Jeff
 - So voted, unanimous
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2020