

Town of Warren
Beach Committee Meeting
Wednesday July 24, 2019
Minutes

Members

BOS: C Nelson, S Warshaw Regrets: C Tanner
P&R Director: D Murphy
Executive Lifeguard/trainer: P Bonis
LWTF: S Hayden
T Parkhouse, A Cassone, J Newton Regrets: J Shaw

Call to Order at 4:36pm by C Nelson

- 1) **Public comment of Business:** M Hendrix primary concern was the public was not informed of the plantings prior to them being put in. T Parkhouse said how the discussion of plants are not mentioned in any of the minutes – Nelson explained what has to be in the minutes - Motions and voting are the only items that need to be listed on minutes. Also if there is no quorum, no minutes are taken. Nelson directed them to the Town Clerk for rules regarding petitions – the petition that was given to the Selectmen did not follow the proper rules.
- 2) **Review of Beach Area:** A Cassone started the discussion regarding other geese deterrent methods she researched. Parkhouse suggested a combination of methods instead of the plants. Some of the items can cause tripping/accident issues – we contacted CIRMA (Town's Insurance Company) and was told the natural buffer is not a safety issue. D Murphy spoke about the beach and insurance liabilities P Bonis spoke about beach/water safety issues and concerns and how to take the necessary precautions to try and avoid incidents. Murphy and Bonis spoke about the life guards and how hard it is to hire them with the added responsibilities of cleaning geese droppings from the beach and grass area and what the responsibilities are of a life guard. Nelson said they would be making an opening on the left side for those wishing to put their kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes in the water without going through the swim area. There is an 8-10 foot opening that coincides with the opening at the parking lot for emergency vehicles. These two openings will have a split rail type gates on them so the geese will not go through the bottom and you will still be able to look through the top of the gate to the beach. Nelson is willing to remove some of the bushes on the right side of beach as a compromise and to see if the geese try to access the grass from that opening. Nelson feels the picnic table, trees and grill currently in that area could be a deterrent from the geese coming in. Nelson spoke about his experiences with geese and what he knows about them. S Hayden spoke regarding the buffer and the plusses it has to the lake area. Hayden showed the committee the manual from Shoreline Management regarding the Shoreline Stabilization and Vegetated Buffer Zones mandated on Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah and the positive effects it has on these lakes. Parkhouse suggested all the plants from the opening to the Washington Club (right side of beach) be removed – Nelson does not want to remove all those plants because the geese will be back on the

grass and beach area. Nelson again offered to remove some of the bushes on the right side - approximately 8 feet – but would need to measure out the area and see what happens. As of today (7/24/19) there have been no geese droppings and the beach area has been clean of geese. Parkhouse asked who will maintain the bushes and are they at the proper spacing for planting– town personnel will keep them small as to not have them overgrown and Hayden confirmed they are spaced correctly (Hayden was there helping with the planting). Right now lifeguards will be watering the plants. Parkhouse, Cassone, and Newton still feel the bushes cause safety issues to those parents utilizing the beach. They cannot see their children at the beach and at the play area/swing area with those bushes blocking their view.

No motions were made, but Nelson will measure right side of beach to see how big of an opening that could possibly be made by removing some of the plants. Parkhouse, Cassone and Newton thanked the Selectmen for their time and for coming to the beach to try and work this matter out.

Motion, Cassone/Parkhouse to adjourn at 5:47pm All in Favor

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Frisbie