

April 27, 2016

Members present: Amy Billings and Richard Combra JR

Beach Management Plan & Surf Rake

Commissioner Billings said that it is more than just Pay and Inkwell beaches that should be covered by the plan. She understands that there is a need for cleaning and re-nourishing of the beaches.

Selectmen Gail Barmakian felt that a general plan that sets parameters is needed and that the Conservation Commission could be more flexible as other towns on the Cape are able to remove seaweed.

Brian Hughes said he didn't think a comprehensive plan needs to be place in order to use the surf rake but develop a reasonable plan that can be approved by Conservation Commission.

There was a question on who manages the beach areas; Board of Selectmen? Park Commission? Or should a new "Beach Committee" be created that could develop the management plan.

Conservation Agent Liz Durkee said that she is researching into other Towns and their use of rakes as well as management plans.

Town Administrator Bob Whritenour suggested having a demonstration of the rake in a limited area and work with ConCom in order to make a long term plan. He stressed that the rake cannot go below the wrack line and would only be used above where people like to sit. He also added that if they could get grade information on record then it could be used in the future should they need to provide it to FEMA.

Liz said that she would bring the request for a temporary permit to allow a rake demo to the Conservation Commission. She is concerned about the long term plan and added that most Cape beaches use it for seaweed removal not dredge material removal and questioned where the debris would go once it has been collected.

Bob suggested a real Beach Committee that could be appointed by the BoS from various other boards and committees such as Park Commission, ConCom, Lagoon Pond Association, Citizens Beach Committee, and BoS.

Liz agreed that all beaches in Town should be part of the management plan as they need to manage the beach for beach goers as well as long term planning.

Commission Combra said that they cannot wait for a management plan as the Town voted to purchase the surf rake and most people who use the beach are not concerned with a long term plan.

Liz said that ConCom acts for the Town as well as the State and if the State has an issue with the surf rake then they will let them know but would be willing to bring NOI to ConCom for a temporary permit for a demo of the surf rake to gather data.

Commissioners agreed to have an update on the surf rake at their mid-May meeting.

Meeting adjourned 3:25 PM.

The next Park Commission meeting is on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall lower level meeting, 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs, MA.