

TOWN LANDS COMMITTEE

Date: June 8, 2020 6 PM

Town Lands Members, Present: Ken Oehmig and Hope Hilton, Co-Chairs; David Morton, Secretary; Priscilla Seimer, and Jane Smith

Absent: David Hackett, Frank Holgate, Ned Perry

Town staff: Harbormaster Paul Plummer

Selectwoman: Jane Covey

Guests: Karen Stover, Melinda Richter, Climate Task Force member Mary Ann Nahf

- **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes from 5/18/2020: Minutes accepted, to be forwarded to Town for archiving
- **UPDATES:**

Tide Mill - Karen Stover discussed issues of road maintenance and illegal parking. Possible additional signage was discussed. Ken reminded us that renovation funding for Tide Mill is on the upcoming Town meeting ballot on July 14.

Portable Toilets - Ken and Jane Covey reported that the Town plans on restoring portable toilets to Town Center parking lot/Cliff Trailhead and Mackerel Cove as soon as Covid-19 related sanitation protocols are established. A toilet at Bethel Point on abutter property is pending.

Canine Task Force - Jane Covey outlined the new task force to study the issue of dogs on town lands and trails. Currently, dogs are required to be on leash at all times. The new task force will include 3 public volunteers and representatives from Town Lands, Michell Field, and Recreation Committees, the Animal Control Officer, as well as Jane Covey, representing the Town Select Board.

Town Land Use - Ken reported, though use is still heavy, there is an observable decrease in use of town lands since the opening of other recreational properties such as state and local parks. The Committee will continue to monitor as needed.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

Giant Stairs signage - Ken discussed the improvements to signage, including maps and a general consolidation of the existing multiple signs. It was also suggested that HHLT and Town Lands collaborate to produce similar signage at both the Ocean St and Mackintosh Lot ends of the property. Priscilla will follow up with HHLT on the idea of consolidated signs. Priscilla also noted trash accumulating on private property adjacent to parking on Washington St across from the Macintosh Lot trailhead.

Bethel Point - David reported no new incidences of defecation in the vicinity of the town launch and he will firm up the verbal toilet agreement with the abutter.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

Climate Task Force Grant- Mary Ann Nahf noted the final report from the Task Force is being prepared with an emphasis on Town infrastructure, landings, and boat launches, looking ahead 30 years for potential climate impact and sea level rise. Money has been appropriated for 8 - 10 hours of engineering services to assess possible remediation. This may fund evaluation of 1 -2 sites. After some discussion a priority list of sites in descending order based on risk assessment and public/commercial use was established as follows:

1 - Lookout Pt, 2- Garrison Cove, 3- Potts Landing, 4- Bethel Point

Paul did note that the Town is working to obtain a separate grant to address structural issues with the Town Dock.

Merrit House - Melinda Richter noted that the road to the Town land needed cleaning and surface repair. The Committee noted the road to be a public way and will refer the issue to the Town Road Commissioner.

Mackerel Cove - Melinda also reported an abundance of apparently abandoned property, including bins, boats, and trailers. It was also noted that the signage declaring property must be removed by July 1 is missing. Paul suggested a more permanent, removal resistant signage may be required. Ken suggested that warning letters to the property owners be sent 1 -2 weeks prior to the July 1 deadline. Priscilla suggested registering property stored for winter on Town/HHLT property to facilitate identifying ownership the following Spring. There was some discussion about changing the removal date to earlier in the year next year.

Parking at Town Dock - Parking just south of the dock has been established. Ongoing discussion about orientation of parking spaces, diagonal, which may increase number of parking spots, vs parallel to street, which may not safely accommodate larger vehicles. Paul noted there was some local objection to diagonal parking and the issue is being studied further for safety and public concerns. The Committee recommended monitoring the parking during this season before signage or parking spot markings are made.

Vandalism at Giant Stairs - Graffiti noted over Memorial Day weekend at the south end of the trail. Removal has been unsuccessful using soap and water only. Sandblasting is planned and awaits environmental permits.

Parking pole at Graveyard - Hope noted that the pole marking the boundary line was pushed aside. Ned Perry had submitted a report with photos showing the change. More permanent anchoring will be looked at by Paul and town staff.

Review Steward List - The Town Lands steward list will be reviewed by stewards for accuracy.

Next Scheduled Meeting July 13, 2020.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.