

Town Lands Committee Meeting Aug 10, 2020 DRAFT

Committee members present: Ken Oehmig, Hope Hilton, David Morton, Priscilla Seimer
Administration: Paul Plummer, Harbormaster

- Minutes from previous July 2020 meeting approved and accepted

- Updates

Tide Mill – Paul announced that the request for bids from contractors is being drafted and will be presented to Selectmen at the next Board meeting. Ken mentioned the difficulty of launching kayaks during mid-tide current. Hope suggested that perhaps some signage or brochure text to encourage launching during the low current times of the tide cycle would be helpful.

Climate Resiliency Taskforce - Ken reported the Taskforce is on hold during the pandemic and there is no news to report at this time.

Portable Toilets – Paul and David made a site visit to Bethel Point to assess the setback at the previously proposed potty site. Unfortunately, the setback measured less than the 75 ft from the shore along about 10 feet of shoreline on the west side of the road. The nearest site within setback rules was at the very north end of the parking area. It was suggested that in light of the history of defecation pollution at the landing and to accommodate the existing handicap parking, the Board of Selectmen should be consulted to discuss a solution to this public health and safety issue.

Dog Taskforce – Hope updated the Town Lands Committee on the Task Force meeting and steps anticipated for further action there. A questionnaire will go out with the next tax bills.

Road Issues – Merritt House Landing and Tide Mill were discussed. Ken noted the gravel patch at Tide Mill has not yet been cleared by the landscaper.

Giant's Stairs – Ken reported sandblasting cleanup of graffiti is complete. Also, Ken completed the painting of the back of the sign facing the abutter. Poison Ivy control was noted to be improved.

Lookout Point Review – Hope, Paul will be conducting the review next Thursday

- Old Business

Bethel Point Parking - Only 1 property owner parking permit has been issued this season to an island resident. Currently, the excess Permitted Parking Only spaces remain vacant or illegally occupied by unpermitted vehicles. In accordance with the current ordinance, Permit Only Parking signs will be removed from the remaining spaces and made available to the public for free parking. Trailer parking remains prohibited, by ordinance, May 15 to Sept. 15 and should be enforced with improved signage.

Garrison Cove – It was reported that the Town legal counsel noted that the Town owns the strip of beach adjacent to the road in question since an owner tax default in 1936. Hope will discuss with Administration if any further steps need to be taken before Town Lands can make use of the property.

- **New Business**

Giant's Stairs - Giant's Stairs abutters, residing on a named private road, request that the street not be labeled in brochures and maps to avoid intrusion. It was suggested that the property owners put up a "Private Road" sign to discourage trespassing. It was also noted that a local resident has been volunteering trash collection and the committee expressed their appreciation. It was suggested she be invited to become a steward for the town land.

Cleanup Day – A cleanup at Mackerel Cove and Giant's Stairs was discussed. Paul offered help with his assistant on a Friday or Saturday. Ken will do a survey to see the extent of work needed and notify volunteers.

Shark News – Paul reported no new reports to the Harbormaster. An interesting discussion of weather influences on local bait and shark populations ensued.

Steward Reports – no new reports to discuss at this time

- **Next Town Lands meeting – Sept. 14, 6:00pm**