

**Ocean Access Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015
Cumberland Town Offices – Council Chambers
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present:

Denny Gallaudet, Chair, Maureen Connolly, Vice-Chair, Charles Adams, Jeff Perry, C. Ingrid Parkin, Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer, Lew Incze, Stephen Thomas, Penny Asherman, CCLT, Tom Gruber, Council Liaison, George Turner, Council Liaison,

Staff: Bill Shane, Town Manager

I. Approval of the December 10, 2014 Minutes:

Mr. Adams moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015.
Mr. Perry seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous 9- 0 in favor

II. Update from Coastal Water Commission Chairman, Lew Incze

Mr. Incze updated the Committee on the work of the Coastal Waters Commission (CWC) related to the pier, float, beach, boating and swimming on the Payson Property.

Meeting points of CWC Jan 29, 2015:

- Structural Engineer Barney Baker was hired to begin evaluation of the Pier and give the CWC recommendations for immediate, short term and long term maintenance issues.
- Float and ramp will be installed as usual this spring
- Signage and protective fencing may need to be part of immediate improvements to the pier now that it is a public structure
- CWC plans to implement cautious and incremental recommendations for the Pier and float so not to overwhelm the property. It was agreed that it may be better evaluate the types of uses expected for a season or two.
- Prohibit power boats from the float only manpowered vessels and manpowered sailboats
- Fishing (with clean-up) off the pier will be permitted
- No Swimming or diving off the float or pier
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent and must wear a life jacket
- Usual prohibitions for running, boat storage, unattended boats, etc.

- Signage should include, No Hunting, No Dogs on the Beach, “Leaving Town Property please respect private property by not trespassing”

Mr. Adams will report to the Shellfish Commission on requesting proper signage or some type of kiosk for Shellfish Rules at the Payson Property. Shellfish Commission to meet sometime in March.

Mr. Incze and the CWC believe that kayaking from the Town Landing site could be easier and more popular than the Payson property if parking could be improved. The Town Manager was working on some reconfiguration in that area to see if additional spaces could be accommodated.

III. Outside Consultant Updates

- Forest Bell- Committee requested the Town Manager contact Forest Bell for a proposal to complete the wildlife inventory this spring at the Payson Property. Mr. Shane will bring the proposal back next month for committee action.
- Ms. Connolly reported that Alpha One will be prepared to advise the committee once a plan for parking is presented. Because of the pending lawsuits, no action or planning will be taking place until the lawsuits have been adjudicated.
- Portland Trails – Chairman Gallaudet reported on several contacts he has made since the last meeting:
 1. Portland Trails & Morse Mtn. interviews in near future
 2. Yarmouth- Cousin’s Island Beach – 30 spaces, Carry –in Carry Out, self-policing, parking lot full on very hot summer days, most other days half full.
 3. Wolf’s Neck State Park- 65,000 visitors, weekends 500 visitors per day, 80 parking spaces, not full all the time, no place for swimming
 4. Laudholm - 40,000 visitors per year @ \$10 each car- 70 car parking lot. They shared with the Chairman if swimming is available at Payson it will be a busy place. Access to water will drive higher number of visitors. They have had a bad problem with dogs at the facility and now dogs are prohibited.
 5. Mackworth Island- most pinged site on the internet.

Discussion continued about remaining small and growing and starting out more restrictive and loosening restrictions as users became more compliant with rules.

IV. Temporary Parking Calendar Year 2015:

After much discussion around alternatives, the Committee asked the Town Manager to get a recommendation from the Police Chief and develop a plan which would allow for 6 parking spaces on each side of the entrance of the Payson Property with gaps between every 2 cars to allow for some pedestrian and bicycle safety.

V. Management Plan

The Committee continued work on the Management Matrix A. Current Uses. The Committee recommended prohibiting dogs from the Payson Property as part of the use plan.

Boating – per CWC recommendation

Swimming- defined area, but not off dock or float or pier

Fishing- Anywhere

Dog walking – Prohibited

Picnicking – Carry –in Carry out- sites to be determined (6-10 bench and table areas)

Winter Sports- snow shoeing & skiing- on defined trails – more discussion needed

VI. Other Business – Next Meeting March 11, 2015

VII. Adjournment – 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Shane, P. E.
Town Manager