

Harvey Lake Beach Committee **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, Sept. 14, 2026

Location: Pavilion at Harvey Beach

Call to Order: 6:03 pm

Attending from the Beach Committee: Christen Emerson; Kathleen Monroe; Kylie Hutchins; Samantha Zita, Beach Manager and Assistant Town Clerk

Other Attendees: Larry Fitch from the public; Emil Pollack and Harry Cornelius, LHA; and Barb Kristoff, candidate for Beach Committee

Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 3, 2026 BEach Committee Meeting Minutes
Tabled until next meeting

Public Comment and Discussion of future correspondence with LHA (i.e., fireworks and Harvey's Lake Day, etc.)

Beach Committee chair, Christen Emerson, advised LHA that we will communicate with Emil Pollack regarding all issues germane to the LHA

LHA expressed that they are going to focus on Lake Preservation and hoped to discuss whether the Beach Committee would take over the fireworks for the Harvey Lake Day. Discussion ensued with Beach Committee members describing have heard comments regarding the following: 1) a concern that either or both the Town and/or the Beach Committee were responsible for the \$10,000 cost of the event 2) comments about the environmental impact. The Beach provided reassurance to those expressing concern that we were assured by the LHA and Pyrotecnico, the fireworks company, that "you can use larger shells which don't generate the same type of debris. By using the larger shells, any debris that is generated is paper that is 100% biodegradable. Any paper generated will visibly disappear within 24 hours and degrade in a similar manner that leaves degrade." (Pyrotecnico, December 16, 2025) Because the fireworks firm did not use "cakes" there should not have been plastic parts that are not biodegradable. Mention was made, and a sample of a plastic cylinder, one of many that washed up on the beach, was shown and given to the LHA members with the caveat that we don't know the origin of the plastic cylinders picked up by staff in the days after the event. Two articles from Watersheds Canada Blog regarding the chemical makeup of fireworks, which states, "When a firework explodes, it releases microscopic particulate matter that falls to land and water where it is a concern for human, animal, and environmental health. Harmful gases [are]

released, like sulphur oxide, nitric oxide, and carbon monoxide, as well as gases in the form of fuels, oxidizers, and binding agents,, and the EPA air sampling showed significantly higher levels of strontium after major holidays, demonstrating clearhealth impact of fireworks [perchlorates].” Links to copies of two articles were provided to the LHA. 3) Kylie Beausoleil, Beach Committee, suggested a survey of members of the Barnet Community to see if there is support to continue the event. A survey could be designed to avoid comments and only gather info about support for or against the fireworks. LHA responded that they would want to review the wording of such a survey. LHA conducted such a survey among its members a year ago and received “overwhelming support” for the fireworks. 4) Christen Emerson, Beach Committee, shared the amount we garnered from the July 18th weekend, an amount approximately \$2800. We are on a tight budget, meet our expenses, but do not have access to the amount of money needed to put on a fireworks show. 5) Another issue community members shared with Beach Committee members and at the Town Offices was that the height of the fireworks was such that many could not see them, and that the colors were too white, yellow, and gold family members, and that the price could not be justified by some. People were reassured that their tax money was not used for fireworks.

It was discussed that IF community members want to donate to a fireworks show, it should be considered that they should contact Emil Pollack directly.

Fireworks Survey discussion will be included on next agenda.

Emil Pollack said there is interest in ice skating on the lake at the beach. Could we collaborate to provide an ice skating rink? Kathleen shared that in the past, a year-round lake resident has, when the conditions allowed (depth of ice, quality of ice surface, etc.), cleared a space on the lake, as have other skating enthusiasts. There is no source of water for smoothing the ice. There is no “Zamboni.” It takes 15-40 hours per week for a volunteer to complete tasks such as: Flooding and Resurfacing; Snow Shoveling and Clearing; and Daily Inspections and Safety Checks. The parking lot is not maintained in the winter.

All the conditions rarely lined up. She added that there is a maintained skating rink in Peacham on the Green in front of their Fire Station, which is lit at night and available all day. It is maintained, and ice conditions are sometimes published. Furthermore, there is a rink in Danville, also maintained, one in Monroe, NH, near their Fire Station, and two volunteer-maintained outdoor rinks in St. Johnsbury (one at Main and Winter and the other at Concord and Portland).

Policy on dogs and how to enforce

Discussion ensued regarding a change in signage that notes the fine for bringing a dog to the beach. Motion made, seconded, discussed, and motion passed. **Winter to-do list.**

Boat launch policy and how to enforce

Additional signage was discussed, and potential locations for posting such signage. Agreed that we would run proposed locations and wording past the LHA, get quotes and offer them the opportunity to pay for this signage as part of their lake protection from invasives program. **Winter to-do list.**

Baby swing removal or replacement

Per insurance, a baby swing has to be beside another baby swing. We'd like to have one swing for enhanced accessibility. Such a swing might run about \$2400; Beach Committee can install. Motion made and seconded to split the cost and add this to the **winter "to-do" list.** We will present our decision to the selectboard once we have more solid information.

Pavilion Relocation update: Permit needed? Impact on Neighbors. Cost estimates

Christen Emerson reported that she was unable to find a crane company that would move the Pavilion building to the discussed former site of the playground near the gate off of Sunny Beach Lane. She averred that she is discussing the removal of the pavilion on skids. She explained to those non-members attending that there was no rebar in the concrete where the current pavilion is located. After a crack developed as a result of age and flood impacts, it was repaired by supervised Barnet students with patching concrete.

ANR and DEC might have to be involved with the moving of the pavilion; there might be permitting, but we are unsure of that. Abutters would be given notice of the potential for increased use of the Sunny Beach Lane gate.

Christen mentioned that the concrete cost would be about \$5,000.

This would result in no change to the pavilion rental form.

Food Truck Friday plans for 2027

The Food Trucks were a big hit. The plan for next year is to have two trucks present on Fridays, perhaps a “sweet” and “savory” offering. This is on the **Winter To-Do list.**

A motion was made to look into the purchase of a new signboard. Samantha Zita explained that signboards wear out and the letters and numbers become brittle and malfunction easily due to rain, wind, and sun.

Life guards, swim instructors, swim lessons, staffing for 2027

Samantha will contact Josh at the Bridge Weekly to explore whether we have to pay for an announcement that we are looking for lifeguards, swim instructors, and staff. Reimbursement of swim certification costs might be offered with a contract—½ the cost refunded after the first year of employment as a lifeguard and the other ½ reimbursed IF the lifeguard serves a second year.

Kathleen will call Evergreen and Upper Valley Aquatics for information on the cost and dates of their certification programs. We need to post jobs much earlier than we have in the past, possibly as early as January, to attract college kids. The season will run from the first weekend in June until Labor Day, and that will be communicated at an appropriate time. We don't want to discourage kids with sports obligations and the fall school return from applying. We have to make sure we have an end date for each employee, including when they will have to leave the employ.

This issue is on the winter to-do list.

Mowing Contract for 2027

Put this on the March Meeting of the Beach Committee. Seek rebids on the mowing for next year. Have candidates who apply to cut the grass twice per week if needed in their judgment. Schedule a site visit for mowing service candidates in the first week of April

Bathroom Door Update

This was put on Shane Stevenson's “to do” list.

Bathroom Sink update

Shane has looked into pricing. The preference is, IF a sink can be installed, for the type that has an automatic shut-off of the water. Do we have a diagram of the location of the plumbing in the bathhouse? Will jackhammering be necessary to get to the plumbing? Discussion ensued as to the septic design and whether it can handle handwashing water, and we discussed the continued use of hand sanitizer.

Recruiting New Members

Barb Kristoff's name will be put on the Selectboard agenda as a willing volunteer member of the Beach Committee.

Other business

T-shirts: We have 23 remaining. Samantha will determine how many have been sold, donated, etc., and report the same at the next meeting.

The committee discussed selling the shirts by advertising them for Xmas or birthdays, gift-giving, and announcing a sale of the same at Christmas time for a price discussed as being between \$15 and \$25 or an "end-of-the-season" sale. Samantha will find out if the t-shirts can be stored in the Town Hall. \$15 per shirt is possibly the break-even point. **Put this on the October 2026 agenda.**

Welcome to Harvey Lake signage. Discussed limiting distraction from the welcome and better posting of the rules. **Put this on the winter to-do list.**

Adjourned: 8:15 pm

Next Meeting is Monday, October 5, 6 pm.