

Beach Committee **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes October 5, 2026
Meeting began at 6:01 pm at Town Hall
Kathleen Monroe, Secretary

Committee Members Present: Christen Emerson, Kathleen Monroe
Public: Barbara Kriistoff (absent until 7:12 pm: Kylie Beausoleil)

The Committee did not have a quorum until 7:12 pm.

The group held an informal informational meeting/discussion until we had a quorum.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 14. Unable to take action. Add to Agenda for November 2, 2026.
2. Appearances by Members of the Public. Barbara Kristoff is awaiting nomination approval to serve on the Committee.
3. Fireworks Survey: Discussion and action. Kathleen will contact LHA's Emil Pollack requesting a copy of the survey they did of LHA members for informational purposes only. At a subsequent meeting, the Beach Committee might discuss a policy or position regarding the use of fireworks at the Beach. If this committee adopts such a policy, it will have to be added to the pavilion rental policy. No action taken as we do not have a quorum.
4. Adding a fine to signage about dogs at the beach: discussion, and take any action. Item tabled. Add to next agenda.
5. Wording, design, etc. for signage regarding location, placement, number, and design. Christen will get in touch with Randy Johnson of 1976 Productions to discuss design and cost of new signage to replace the current Beach Rules signage. We are seeking a more
6. Food Truck Fridays will be held from June 18th through September 3.
7. Baby Swing removal and "Deadbolt" installation: Christen will ensure these two tasks are completed by November 2, after foliage.
8. Pavilion relocation: Discussion ensued, and research into some grant sources was presented by Kathleen Monroe. Kathleen spoke with Dylan Ford, Barnet Selectboard chair, regarding possible grant sources. Subsequently, Monroe contacted Marlena Baker, Agency of Natural Resources and Forest, Parks and Recreation (ANR/FPR). Ms. Baker reported that the Beach has received 4 previous grants to fund work at the Town Beach. Baker added that the beach area can be improved within its existing boundaries. She added that a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application could fund the project. She emphasized that LWCF monies are available upon application and approval and could range from \$ 25,000 to \$ 1,000,000. However, the town would have to match these funds at 50%.
Baker also said that money is available from the Building Communities Grant, a State-funded grant) under Buildings and General Services for the State of Vermont,

which “might be a good fit for the relocation of the pavilion that is under discussion. These funds are “up to” \$25,000. The project, should its pursuit be endorsed by the Beach Committee after a feasibility study, and if applied for when all plans and permits are in place indicating that it is “shovel-ready,” could be considered. Again, the Town would need to provide a 1:1 match for the amount awarded.

After our last meeting, Monroe spoke to Select Board member Dylan Ford. She advised that Town Building Funds were, for the 2026 budget year, “drastically reduced” compared to past years. Historically, the Building Funds, from about the time of Ted Faris’ time on the Select Board, built a robust Building line item because Select Boards suspected or knew that the town was going to have to deal with the aging Town Clerk’s office and the Town was going to have to remodel the recently auctioned existing building, and remodel, find solutions for inadequate systems, or build a new building. That Town Hall project, having been completed, funds are not going to be sought from taxpayers except for “very necessary, critical improvements,” some of which will address additional fixes at the new Town Hall, certainly at the Library (long-delayed essential electrical work and now a replacement of a door), and at other Town-owned properties. Furthermore, as a result of the 2024 flood, the Town is still waiting for a critical \$1M in FEMA funds. Monroe was unaware of another issue Ford mentioned about the location of a re-sited pavilion at the old playground: poison ivy. At this October discussion (no quorum), Monroe asked if the poison ivy was eradicated, and Christa Emerson responded that a larger path had been carved out to allow the mower to cut closer to the poison ivy, but that she did not know whether any eradication had been attempted or if the poison ivy is still abundant and posing a threat. Regarding funding, Emerson also discussed the Beach Committee’s Reserve Fund. Christen Emerson will contact Dennis Marquise, Zoning Administrative Officer, to discuss State and local permitting to move the pavilion, clarify the process, and provide how-tos for obtaining precise engineering and building quotes.

Emerson is working to determine whether monies were withdrawn from the proper accounts and how much money remains in the Beach Committee reserve funds. She cited a June 9, 2025 Select Board meeting in which the Select Board said it would pay for some flood repairs out of the reserve fund, but the Beach Committee fund would be reimbursed. Emerson will update the Beach Committee at the November meeting.

The board briefly discussed how to organize a feasibility study, what matters to address, and in what order.

Monroe will provide Emerson’s information about T-Mobile funds to each committee member at the November meeting.

9. Evergreen and Upper Valley Aquatics Lifeguard certification: Kathleen shared the information she received from Evergreen in Lisbon and Upper Valley Aquatics. UV Aquatics provided dates, times, and cost. That was not the case for Evergreen. Evergreen suggested she reach out in February or March 2027 for more information about their Lifeguard certification dates and cost. Our lifeguards have to be 16 years of age. Kathleen put contact with Evergreen in February on her calendar.

7:12 pm Kylie Beausoleil arrived, and now we have a quorum.

10. Submission of the Operating Budget: Christen Emerson shared Revenue and Expenditure information for the 2026 summer season. Income at the Beach over the summer netted \$900 more than anticipated, with Emerson reporting \$17,410. 33. Emerson reported that we'd budgeted \$20,780 and we spent \$18,082.27. However, Emerson also calculated that we cost the town about \$700. We discussed this, and it was proposed that we leave the budget as is but increase our daily fee from \$4 to \$5 and the pass cost from \$60 to \$75. This would, it was said, close the gap between income and how much we cost the Town, given revenue and expenditures. The increase was justified because other area beaches charge far more. The committee moved, seconded, and passed to keep our 2027 operating budget the same as proposed at Town Meeting in 2026.

11. Other Business: The Town Hall is unavailable for the Beach Committee's November Meeting. Kathleen will contact the Firehouse to explore use of that building on November 2, 2026, for our next meeting.

Monroe asked how we might better inform the Town of our meeting places and times. It was decided that we will meet on the first Monday of the month from May through September at the Beach at 6:30 and at the Town Hall from October through April at 6:00 pm. Holidays may interrupt this schedule, and meeting notices should include the location to avoid conflicts.

The committee addressed streamlining the management of Beach House supply tasks to improve summer operational efficiency. The Beach Committee discussed factors that could be addressed more efficiently, such as the provision of and availability of a good number of log sheets, a tote with at least 32 rolls of toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox wipes, and Beach Pass forms. We will add an end-of-day inventory. The \$5 entrance fee will reduce the need to resupply \$1 bills frequently.

We also discussed advertising for and hiring mature adults as gatekeepers.

We also need to find someone to work with Samantha Zita, Beach Manager, on interviewing gatekeeper staff. Currently, we hire youth aged 15 and older.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm