Beach Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes for November 2, 2026
Meeting location: Firehouse on Bimson Drive
Time: 6 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Committee members: Kathleen Monroe, Barbara Kristoff, Kylie Hutchins. Christen Emerson was unable to attend.
Asst. Town Clerk and Beach Manager: Samantha Zita Furbert

Agenda

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 2026 Meetings held on August 3, September 14, and October 5.
   Draft minutes for each date were approved unanimously and unchanged.
2. Appearances by Members of the Public: None
3. Fireworks survey, Committee policy; add any adopted policy to pavilion rental contracts
   We have not heard from Emil Pollack, liaison from the Lake Harvey Association (LHA), who was going to look into the ecosystem impact of fireworks displays, particularly in rural locations, including but not limited to wildlife or human impact, metals, salts, and adhesive impact, presence in the fireworks from Pyrotecnico of lithium, strontium, barium, chromium (unlikely since it is banned in the US), gases, etc. The committee reviewed the questions the LHA used to poll members' enthusiasm for a July fireworks display. Kylie Hutchins made a motion, and Barb Kristoff seconded it. The motion reads: "The Beach Committee will table discussion of a fireworks survey until Dr. Pollack shares more information about the environmental impact of the fireworks. Furthermore, the Harvey's Lake Beach Committee is not in a position to take on planning/orchestrating/or funding the fireworks." All were in favor.
4. Discussion of facilitating adding a fine to signage about dogs at the Beach; take any action. The Beach Committee discussed adding a fine to the signage. We reviewed the policy in place, which reads: No dogs allowed, AT ANY TIME! (*Dogs are not allowed because of the risks to public health and water quality.)* Per Town Ordinance, fines can/will be charged! A policy was put in place 60 days after March 19, 1979, prohibiting dogs on the beach. https://barnetvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ControlofDogsatHarveysLakeBeach_200dpi.pdf

According to the official Ordinance for Control of Dogs at Harvey's Lake Beach issued by the Town of Barnet, Vermont, violators face a **fine of not less than $100 and not more than $500**.

Key specifics of the policy include:

- **Strict "No Dogs" Zone:** Dog owners are strictly prohibited from allowing their dogs to enter the fenced-in public beach area at any time.
  Town of Barnet
- **Leash Law Context:** If a dog is in the non-fenced-in portion of the Harvey's Lake Public Beach Area(which includes the parking lot and picnic areas), it must be held on a leash, cord, chain, or lead no longer than 8 feet.
  Town of Barnet
- **Per-Day Violations:** If a violation is continuous, **each day's violation is deemed a separate offense** and can be fined independently.
  Town of Barnet
- **Reasoning:** According to the official Harvey's Lake Beach Rules, dogs are banned entirely from the beach area to mitigate public health risks and protect local water quality.
  We are unsure who issues the ticket. Kathleen will contact Joy Morse, Animal Control Officer, or a constable or other town entity to confirm the procedure and determine who should be called to issue any necessary ticket or citation.
  A motion was made by Barb Kristoff that signage should reflect that a fine “up to $500” will be issued for infractions of the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Kathleen; all were in favor of changing the signage to reflect that verbiage.

5. Emerson’s summary of discussion with sign maker regarding more prominent Rule Signage; design and cost
   Christen Emerson has been unable to reach the sign maker. Tabled.
6. Emerson update on removal of baby swing and installation of “dead bolt” at bathhouse.
   The swing has been taken down. The “dead bolt” has not been installed. The State-required update to the existing electrical outlet has not been addressed and has not been installed. Gary Briggs will be contacted by Christen to accomplish this task. The Beach Committee recommends installing a second outlet at the Pavilion when an electrician addresses the State’s concern. Deadbolt tabled.
7. Pavilion relocation: Summary of Emerson’s discussion with Dennis Marquise, Zoning Administration Officer, on design feasibility and funds in an organized format. Christen Emerson, who was unable to be present for this meeting, shared that Emerson reported that Marquise said, “As for Barnet Zoning, we are good [as it meets setbacks of at least 100 feet from the shore and 15 feet from all other property lines],” and he can issue the permit. Kathleen had also been in touch with Marquise and shared the following: The state flood regulators seemed okay with the move [of the pavilion] but wanted to make sure that the shoreland people had an opportunity to weigh in as well since they, the flood regulators, have jurisdiction over lands which are 250 feet from the shore. It also appears that there are wetlands, and that the State Agency will have to be involved as well.” Kathleen shared that negotiating with the Vermont

Wetlands Program is described as “highly structured, technically rigid and leaves very little room for informal haggling.” It is recommended that the Committee engage early via the Wetlands Inquiry Portal for a site visit from a District Wetlands Ecologist during the season April to October. “Getting them on-site early allows you to collaboratively adjust your project before spending money on finalized plans.” Kathleen shared a DRAFT Strategic Justification Process Guide for Discussion of Relocating Harvey Beach Pavilion. The committee agreed that a work session at which committee members review the draft evaluation criteria be scheduled, at which time additions, corrections, and deletions to the document will be discussed, a final guide decided upon, and a Scoring Scale or Weighting system be adopted for use with the Guide. At that session or at a subsequent work session, the committee will collaborate to consider each one of the evaluation criteria. We will not contact the Wetlands Program until we have that document in place. It was agreed that the first work session should be scheduled within the next two months. Kathleen will propose some dates.

8. Lifeguard Training info from Evergreen and Upper Valley Aquatic. Discussion of securing a swim instructor and offering lessons in 2027. Kathleen contacted both Evergreen in Lisbon and Upper Valley Aquatic regarding their lifeguard training schedules. Evergreen had no schedule and advised her to call again in February or March. Upper Valley Aquatic provided their schedule and costs through May 2027. Beyond that, the issue was tabled and will be included on the next agenda. The committee re-discussed that, without a lifeguard, the Red Cross does not recommend offering swim lessons by a certified swim instructor. Before the meeting started, Ron Morse stopped in to remind us that his daughter could provide swim instruction if we contact her in a timely manner.
9. Select committee members to interview gatekeeper applicants, along with the Beach Manager. Discussion of both youth hires and the hire of mature personnel as gatekeepers. Samantha Furbert reported that interviews are done on one or two days. Kylie Hutchins agreed to participate in the interview on a Monday from 3:45-6:00, and Barb Kristoff agreed to participate on another day after school hours. Verbiage for ads seeking gatehouse employees was discussed, and it was agreed that the description will include encouragement of persons of any age 15 and above, that it might be a great opportunity for retired persons and adults, not just teens. We also agreed to review the verbiage the Boat Wash uses for hiring.
10. Assign responsibility to personnel/beach committee members to streamline procurement and availability of log sheets, toilet paper, Clorox wipes, beach passes, paper towels, and change for the gate. Samantha clarified that she was called at most three times to provide supplies, and only by one employee. It was agreed that all the ordered supplies should be housed at the gatehouse, in clearly marked bins, and that more bins/totes (maybe 2?) might be needed. Employees will receive clear instructions on what is in each clearly marked bin and their responsibility to report when supplies are running low. The supply of dollar bills is addressed by the increase in the gate fee.
11. Update and discuss the Beach Reserve Fund Balance, i.e., reimbursement by the Town for flood-related repairs. Tabled.

12. T-shirt sales for the holiday season. The Committee agreed to advertise the shirts as a Holiday Special at $20 per shirt. Barb agreed to contact Diane Thompson to explore having a table at the PTO holiday craft fair at the school. Kylie will put a notification of the sale up on Front Porch Forum and Facebook. Kathleen offered to store the T-shirts for pick-up at her house, and Christen may offer the same. [Christen has offered to sell remaining T-shirts at the PTO Craft Fair after Kylie advertises the Holiday Sale on FB and FPF. Shirts will be available for pick-up at Kathleen's address by agreement with Christen.]
13. Other business: The Beach Committee is still trying to recruit new members. Additional advertising and outreach to encourage community members to join were suggested.

Meeting adjourned by motion and vote at 7:20 pm.