**Tri-Town Beach Commission**

**Monday, July 5, 2023**

**5:00PM**

**Tri Town Beach Pavilion**

**MINUTES**

Present: Diane Kolakoski, Kenneth Cuddeback, Patricia Pirog

Absent: Marc Bussiere

Ms. Pirog called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

**Staffing for July 15 and July 16**

Ms. Pirog reviewed a staffing shortage for the weekend of July 15 and July 16. No lifeguards are able to work that weekend due to previous commitments. The beach will be open for “swim at your own risk” only for permit holders. There will be a gatekeeper on duty.

**Lifeguard staffing needs**

Ms. Pirog discussed the current plans for lifeguards through the end of the season. While we presently have staffing to cover shifts, two guards will have to leave early to return to school while the remaining guards will be returning to school the last week of August. Patty suggested hiring another guard to help fill in shifts and provide coverage through August. The commission agreed that another guard should be hired if one can be found and authorized Patty to proceed with hiring.

**Raft Donations**

We have received two more donations toward the purchase of the new raft. The latest donations have come from Habitat and Atlantic Furniture. The raft was installed at the end of June and has been a welcome addition to the beach area.

**Party Requests**

Patty reported that she has been receiving requests from families and groups interested in having parties at the beach. The commissioners discussed the requests and agreed that accommodations could be made to provide for parties that use the beach facilities. The commission agreed that we should charge $100 for parties of up to 20 guests and $200 for parties over 20 guests. The fee would cover exclusive use of the pavilion for four hours. Guests should be limited to those invited to attend the party. Parents and/or siblings of “guests” would not be included under the fee. They would need to be permit holders or pay a day use fee if they choose to stay at the beach.

**Minutes May 15, 2023 and June 15, 2023**

*Motion made by Patty Pirog, seconded by Diane Kolakoski to approve the minutes of May 15, 2023 and June 15, 2023 as written.*

Vote

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog – yes

**River Valley Day Camp**

The commissioners met with Jeremy Wells, director of the River Valley Day Camp to review safety concerns and issues that have arisen during the camp’s time at the beach. Jeremy expressed concern with 1) The placement of the guards while the camp is at the beach, 2) the need to meet a standard ratio of 25 campers to 1 guard, 3) concern that there have been times when no guard is on the beach while the camp is in attendance, 4) he has observed lifeguards on their phones while on duty, 5) one guard making friendship bracelets while on duty. Jeremy also inquired about 1) the use of the raft for River Valley campers, and 2) Bement seeming to have a better “deal” than River Valley, and 3) clearer delineation of the camp spaces for River Valley and Bement.

**Minutes Tri Town Beach Commission, July 5, 2023 (cont.)**

Patty addressed the concerns noting that logistics have been worked out to clear things up over the first weeks of the camps. The guard placement provides coverage for the full beach and guards cannot be dedicated exclusively to River Valley when they are in attendance. The times when the guards are not on the beach tend to be when they have to use the bath house. Other than that they are expected to be in their positions on the beach. The Commissioners will check on the use of phones and making of bracelets while on duty to make sure it’s clearly understood that the focus is 100% on supervising the swim area while there are swimmers in the water and on the beach. Patty noted that new buoy lines are on order and will help define the swim areas more clearly.

The commissioners agreed that River Valley campers could use the raft, but only after they had been evaluated by the lifeguards for their ability to swim to the raft. Jeremy was told that a River Valley counselor had to be on the raft to supervise whenever campers are using the raft.

*Motion by Ken Cuddeback, seconded by Patty Pirog to allow River Valley Camp to use the raft for their campers provided that a River Valley staff member is on the raft to supervise the campers and no more than 20 campers are on the raft at the same time and further, that campers must be evaluated and approved by Tri Town Beach lifeguards in order to use the raft. Motion approved 3-0*

Vote

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog – yes

**Bear Observed in Pond Area**

Patty reported that a bear has been observed around the pond area recently by the guards and gatekeepers. The bear has not approached the beach area but will still be monitored by the guards and gatekeepers if it keeps making appearances.

**Beach Pass Update**

Patty reported that approximately 40 passes have been sold to date. She will have a more complete count summary for the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

*Diane Kolakoski moved to adjourn with Patty Pirog seconding. Motion Approved 3 - 0.*

Vote

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog – yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenneth Cuddeback