

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC) MEETING
Approved Minutes of June 23, 2008

Attendance

Present

Members: Lea Anne Atwell, Secretary; Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Ammy Heiser, Chair; Stetson Heiser; Ayn Whytemare

Not Present

Members: Kevin Gagne; Kevin Krebs, Planning Board (PB) Representative; David Sheldon, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Representative

1. Call to Order – Ammy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the changes at the White Sands Conservation area and to let the public voice any opinions or concerns they may have over the changes. The dirt road to the parking area is owned by Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), who has decided to put a gate across the road to restrict vehicular traffic. PSNH does not want to be responsible for maintaining the road. There has also been excessive illegal dumping at the White Sands property, and the CC hopes that the gate will prevent more dumping. The gate is up, and the road is closed to vehicular traffic; however, foot traffic is encouraged, and the property and the beach are still open for the public to enjoy.

Ammy opened the floor to comments from the public.

Peter Blaze – Mr. Blaze lives adjacent to the White Sands property, and indicated that there is a lot of traffic on the road. He asked the CC who had decided to build the parking area in the first place. The CC indicated that we did not know how the parking area came into existence. Mr. Blaze indicated that he thought the gate was a good idea.

Stan Bardner, Academy Road – Mr. Bardner suggested having another meeting after July 4th to assess how the gate is affecting the use of the property.

Harold Thompson – Mr. Thompson indicated that the signs posted at White Sands indicated that the property is for Town residents only, but that conservation land should be open to everyone. Ayn clarified that while the property is open to everyone, parking is for town residents only. The CC suggested replacing the signs with ones that indicate “Parking for Pembroke Residents Only.” The CC also discussed adding “NO PARKING” signs in front of the gate. Mr. Thompson asked if it was okay for us to use the road to walk on. Ayn indicated that PSNH was concerned over liability from vehicular traffic, and that we could walk on the road.

Steven Richard, Bow Lane – Mr. Richard indicated that south of White Sands, PSNH just has an easement for the power line. The CC clarified that while that is the case south of White Sands, PSNH actually owns the land on the road out to White Sands. Mr. Richard also had concerns over parking and how many cars can fit into the new parking area. The CC indicated that the

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police are responsible for enforcing parking in the surrounding area. Also, is parking allowed on Bow Lane and Nadine Drive? The CC indicated it did not know. Ayn indicated she would check with the police.

Mr. Bardner indicated that he had seen a lot of trash and dumping at the property. He asked about accessibility for emergency conditions. Ammy indicated that the CC had previously met with all concerned Town departments, including the police. Police and Fire have a key to the gate. Mr. Bardner asked if the CC had considered offering to PSNH that the Town fix the road. The CC explained that the Town had maintained the road for several years, unaware that PSNH owned the road, and that PSNH had still decided to put the gate. Mr. Bardner suggested forming a neighborhood watch for the area.

The CC discussed other signage, including “Report Illegal Dumping to Pembroke Police” and no parking signs in front of the gate to White Sands, as well as the gate to the south. Fish and Game may have signs that indicate no wheeled vehicles.

Ammy closed the meeting at 7:53 pm.