

**NORTH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES of November 17, 2005**  
**Permit Building, 283 George Ryder Rd**

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Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm. In attendance on the committee were Chairman Bill Hammatt, Vice Chairman Roger Carroll, Richard Woodward, Kurt Hellfach, Nancy Fulcher, and Don St. Pierre. Absent was Peter Schluter. Also in attendance: Coastal Resource Director Ted Keon, Conservation Agent Kristin Andres, and visitors Jef Fitzgerald, Russell Broad, Donald Harris, Fred Truelove, and Donna Lumpkin.

**Email addresses** were obtained from those present to improve communication regarding upcoming meetings and notices. Not all present can be contacted by email to date, specifically Peter Schluter, Don St Pierre, Nancy Fulcher.

**Minutes** from the last meeting **October 6, 2005** were reviewed and approved.

**The letter to Camp Owners from the Chairman, dated October 17, 2005** that called for voluntary removal of pallets from the beach, specifically the bayside was discussed. Don Harriss suggested an informal meeting with the Conservation Commission to discuss the problems on North Beach and see what solutions might be acceptable. Fred cited the effectiveness of snow fencing to build dunes and felt it was important to be able to install fencing as needed. Kristin said that it was reasonable to expect that the Commission would allow ongoing installation of fencing with a permit.

Russell submitted a memo dated 11-16-05 with attached newspaper articles. He was looking for solutions to controlling the loss of sand, noting the application of fiber rolls in Crows Pond and sand-drift fencing in Eastham. He felt that the Town should help the camp owners find solutions to the beach erosion.

Ted explained the role of the Conservation Commission and town staff. Primarily, staff and the Commission review proposed projects with respect to the wetlands protection regulations and are not in the business of designing projects. Some "solutions" may be permitted under the regulations for a barrier beach and others clearly do not. For example, snow fencing may be permitted for dune building, however an engineered hard structure like a bulkhead would and could not be permitted. Ted offered his help in the application process.

Don Harriss offered his property to install sand-drift fencing as an experiment. Ted explained that even as an experiment, it would likely need a permit from the Commission.

Scott stated that experience showed that snow-fencing and Christmas trees were the most effective method of dune building. He was adamant that efforts and plans for saving the beach be developed and acted upon.

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Russell talked about the use of sand drift fencing in Eastham - that in some cases they appear to trap sand and in other areas their effectiveness is not evident.

There was a question as to what the Town was considering doing below exit 7 (for dune building). Ted said that it is complicated due to property ownership that includes both the Feds and the Town. The Seashore does not want anything done on their property.

Ted explained Dr. Geise's belief that overwash is important to maintaining the width of the barrier beach and that in a way, dune building may be counter productive. Though this may be true in the long term, Ted said he was an advocate of dune management on the private developed lands.

Ted said that it was the Seashore's opinion in the past that work to repair damage from that caused by human disturbance was okay.

Someone suggested restricting traffic, specifically day-trippers, to reduce damage (compaction, rutting, etc.).

It was reiterated that pallets should be removed because they don't function in any capacity of sand entrapment and pose a threat to boaters and a debris nuisance elsewhere on the beach. Posts with rope as symbolic fencing would be found less objectionable by the Commission.

Don St Pierre questioned whether moving sand from the outer beach and creating dunes with the material could be permitted. It was thought it would not be permissible, if it meant altering the actual outer beach.

Roger felt that the debris in the middle road needs to be removed and will likely require the use of equipment to do so.

In further discussion it was stated that ideally the camp owners would hire a consultant who would come up with a design/plan and handle the permit process. Short of that, it was recommended that a subcommittee be established to review recommendations, possible solutions, and the feasibility of putting together a Notice of Intent for work on the middle road. It was noted that part of the effort would be getting permission from all of the owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Andres, Conservation Agent

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