

**Minutes
Safety Committee Meeting
August 29, 2020**

The Safety Committee met on Saturday, August 29 at 9:00 am by Zoom video conferencing.

Committee members present were: Michael Tirrell, chair, Gina Cressey, Harry Rosenblum, Beanie Einstein, Jessica Cohen, Lisa Fryer, Jim Coughlin, and Jeffrey Wilt.

Also present were Police Chief Michael Boucher and Village Agent Bill Paige

The topics discussed are as follows –

Lifeguards & Dock Attendant

Coverage for lifeguards and dock attendant wraps up for the season on August 31. Bill Paige said that the three people who shared the lifeguard and dock manager positions – Thomas Parker, Elizabeth Parker, and Ronin Deschamps – have expressed interest in returning next summer. Everyone agreed with Beanie Einstein’s observation that they all have done a great job this season.

Police Coverage

The police patrols are winding down but will continue until just after the Around Islesboro Race on September 12, with some last shifts the week of September 13, including some hours for office work to wrap up the season.

A number of people, including Chief Boucher, observed that speeding was not as big a problem this summer as recent years. Fewer people were in the village, and less work on cottages meant fewer speeding cars and – especially – trucks. COVID 19 kept some people home, and the additional flashing speed signs had the intended effect. As a result of these factors, few warnings were given and very few speeding tickets were written. (More on speed issue below)

Season Review

This is the last Safety Committee meeting of the season – the committee resumes activity again in mid-Winter for 2021 planning. The committee spent a few minutes discussing the season with an eye towards next year and beyond. Items reviewed included:

1. **Dock attendant:** Most of the committee agreed that the position was as effective as it could be in enforcing the COVID-19 rules. Harry Rosenblum and Jim Huning (Jim writing in via email) disagreed, with both citing the times that people either jumped off dock or were fishing. All committee members hope we won’t need those restrictions next year. The State of Maine grant we received covered the cost of the additional employee and having two people at work made for a safer waterfront environment.
2. **Danny Ryosa:** Committee members were unanimous in their praise of Danny’s work as a police officer this season. Mary Hanrahan wrote in via email: “He has been a calm, leveling, empathetic, and professional influence in our community.” Immediately following the meeting, Jim Coughlin suggested that the committee write Danny a letter of recommendation. Michael Boucher is coordinating that as part of his wrap-up of Danny’s service. Everyone agreed that we would like to have Danny return to Bayside next year and we will stay in touch with him over the winter.

3. **Lifeguard coverage:** Several committee members, including Lisa Fryer and Jessica Cohen, urged that the committee consider staffing two lifeguards per shift in future years, especially on a busy main dock and beachfront. Bill Paige weighed in to say that recruiting lifeguards has been difficult and that is a consideration for any staffing plans. Current budget allocations allow for one lifeguard per shift.
4. **Digital speed signs:** Everyone agrees that the additional signs have had the desired effect to limit speeding. Some urged that we consider another portable, solar operated sign – and that perhaps a fundraising effort be commenced over the winter. Other suggestions included an additional fixed digital sign – they run \$2,300/each. If that option is pursued, the suggestion was made to inventory best locations for the new sign. The committee will look at this issue in future meetings.
5. **Police coverage during rush hour:** We discussed prioritizing rush hour a bit more next year. The traffic volume on Bluff Road this season was down – below half, in Jim Coughlin’s guess – but next year it could return to regular levels if activity levels return to normal.
6. **Police cruiser:** We discussed the cruiser, which is in relatively good shape, but needs regular maintenance like all older cars. Jim Coughlin gave it a good clean-up last spring and has volunteered to do that again in the fall. A suggestion was made by Gina Cressey that we consider leasing a cruiser in the future. Michael Boucher discussed a grant from the state that can be used to buy a new and ideally less expensive electric car that could be ideal for our purposes. Michael Tirrell requested that M. Boucher forward details of that program for the committee to pursue.
7. **Police bike:** Lisa Fryer urged that the committee budget for a police bike or bikes, for use during the season and – among other things – to minimize reliance on the aging cruiser. The current budget doesn’t provide for the purchase of a police bike or bikes – but the committee can look at that.
8. **Police uniforms:** This subject came up and Michael Tirrell questioned whether the current uniform is cool enough on hot days/nights. Michael Boucher informed the committee that polo shirts have been ordered and have still not arrived.

Lastly, the committee discussed what the start of next season might look like with the sea wall construction, if that winter project is still underway or wrapping up. The committee will monitor progress and plan accordingly.

Everyone agreed it’s premature to make any guesses about COVID-19 for 2021. The hope is for a normal Bayside summer next year, with everything open and all activities following a typical schedule. In a comment that perhaps captured group conscience and gratitude, Jim Coughlin mentioned that no cases of COVID-19 were reported in our village this summer.

NOTE: A notice announcing this meeting was not posted in advance of the meeting due to a typo citing the meeting date in an email sent to Danny Webster by Michael Tirrell. We regret the error.

Meeting Summary prepared by:

Gina Cressey
Michael Tirrell