

**Minutes**  
**Safety Committee Meeting**  
**August 12, 2019**  
**Blair Agency**

The Safety Committee met at 9:00 am on Aug. 12 at the Blair Agency. Present were committee members Michael Tirrell, Beanie Einstein, Harry Rosenblum, Jim Huning, Jeffrey Wilt, and Gina Cressey. Lifeguard Evan Damuck and Village Agent Bill Paige also attended the meeting.

A visitor concerned about speeding was Ed Williams, who lives on the Shore Rd. near where Cobe Rd. intersects. He pointed out that there are three speed signs in one direction between there and the end of the village, and only one in the other direction. Several people explained that that road belongs to the town of Northport and we cannot make changes to it, which Ed said he knows. The committee agreed to ask the Overseers to approach Northport officials about additional signage.

Bill Paige stated that the only way to control speeding on that stretch of road would be for police officers to patrol it 24/7. Right now, the cruiser is out of service, getting a new transmission. We hope to have it back in use in a week or so. The officer on duty has been doing foot patrol and using a hand-held radar unit on loan from a town in NH. Waldo County Police have increased Bayside patrols to help us out.

In advance of comments he plans to make at the Bayside annual meeting on Tuesday, Aug 13, Chair Michael Tirrell offered some context around the 2020 budget for safety related expenses, specifically the budget allocation for police wages. Bayside's police duties are handled in a job-sharing arrangement between Michael Boucher and Ben Kolko. The budget provides for roughly 500 hours of police coverage, which is structured to ramp-up in the pre-season of June thru early July; to go to full coverage (40-hours/week) during peak season (July 4 through August); and to wind down in early September.

Additionally, Tirrell focused on the issue of traffic safety, including speeding, given its high priority— and he shared some data to provide context around police attention to speeding concerns. As of mid-August, a total of 78 motorists were stopped by the Bayside police and 9 of those were issued citations for traffic offenses (11.53%). Breaking that down, in the pre-season period, 43 vehicles were stopped, and 7 drivers were issued tickets (16.27%). That compares to the peak season period, when 35 motorists were stopped and 4 drivers were issued tickets (11.42%). The decrease from pre-season to peak-season can be attributed to what police call “voluntary compliance” — as the summer season progresses, motorists increasingly get the message that speed limits in Bayside are enforced by the police.

The committee also discussed waterfront safety issues, and what could be done to ramp it up in the face of so many kids using the dock on most days. More parental involvement is needed, since there are sometimes kids on the dock who are too young to be there without supervision. Everyone need to know what the lifeguards' responsibilities are and are not.

A committee will be formed, including the lifeguards, to come up with a job description and guidelines for doing the job as effectively as possible. Babysitting and assisting boaters in tying up their boats won't make the cut.

The committee voted to support a good suggestion that came from lifeguard Evan Damuck to communicate existing conditions as clearly as possible. Evan has researched the idea of buying a set of six flags to be flown on the dock from the northwest corner, near the lifeguards' big box.

The colors, red, green, and others indicate that condition are good, cautious, or hazardous, and answer the question of when it's safe to jump. The set costs \$160 plus shipping and we'll need to add a pole and get it installed. The \$45 from contributions at the Safety Fair for hot dogs is a start. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the purchase of the safety flags for the 2020 season.

Lastly, Michael Tirrell asked that sub-committee form to meet with the lifeguards and Bill Paige on a bi-weekly basis to provide input from lifeguards about conditions on the dock; and to provide the lifeguards with feedback from parents and residents. The sub-committee is to be: Michael Tirrell, Lisa Fryer, Beanie Einstein, and Bill Paige. The check-ins with lifeguards will begin this week and continue through the end of the season. This process will also commence at the start of the 2020 season.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Cressey