

Safety Committee -- Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: 04-08-21

Safety Committee Members present:

Jessica Cohen
Jim Coughlin
Gina Cressey
Beanie Einstein
Lisa Fryer
Jim Huning
Harry Rosenblum
Michael Tirrell
Jeffrey Wilt

Village residents present:

Lisa Berry
Blair Einstein
Cynthia Stuen
Mike Trasatti
Dan Webster
(Others came and went briefly on the Zoom call)

The meeting agenda was as follows:

1. Summer staffing update: Police & Lifeguards
2. COVID-19
3. Waterfront Safety Ordinance: committee review
4. Safety Brochure: update & distribution
5. Safety Day
6. Budget planning

Summer Staffing Update: Chair Michael Tirrell provided a staffing update for the coming season. Both of last summer's lifeguards – Thomas Parker and Ronin Deschamps – will be hired for Summer 2021 to staff the waterfront. One lifeguard per shift will be on duty for 7 days a week at the height of the season. Also, both police officers from last year are returning to Bayside – Michael Boucher and Danny Ryosa – and they will split the coverage so that the village has one officer on duty for 40 hours a week at peak season.

COVID-19: Committee members and resident attendees commented on COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions that were in place last year for the waterfront (main dock & swimming areas) parks, and common areas – including Community Hall. The committee consensus was to return to normal usage and to follow the guidelines from the Maine CDC.

Editor's Note: At the Board of Overseers Meeting on 4-11-21, which followed the Safety Committee meeting, the Overseers unanimously passed the following four motions, each motion incorporating a requirement of adherence to current CDC and State of Maine guidelines:

1. ***Motion #1, moved by Jeffrey W. and seconded by Judy M.: all outdoor areas will be open for use by the public, following CDC guidelines particularly regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks.***
2. ***Motion #2, moved by Judy M. and seconded by Michael T.: The Bayside Library will be open to the public, subject to any CDC guidelines, particularly regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks.***
3. ***Motion #3, moved by Judy M. and seconded by Michael T.: The upstairs of Community Hall will be open to the public, subject to any CDC guidelines regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks, as well as the following conditions:***
 - A. ***Windows must be open during any public use or event;***
 - B. ***Any fans in use during events or activities must be directed for an outward air flow; and***
 - C. ***A minimum of 48 hours must take place between uses of the hall.***
4. ***Motion #4, moved by Judy M. and seconded by Jeffrey W.: The downstairs of Community Hall will be open to the public, following the same precautions put in place in 2020 regarding traffic flow, appropriate social distancing, and the wearing of masks.***

Waterfront Safety Ordinance: The Safety Committee also discussed the proposed Waterfront Safety Ordinance, which has been drafted by the Governance Committee and is winding its way through the Village vetting process. Committee members had a few questions, but by and large, these rules point in the direction of a safer waterfront and orderly storage and management of dinghies, kayaks, et al.

Mike Trasatti commented that the proposed ordinance invites “government overreach” and he cautioned against using law enforcement personnel to address areas of private safety vs. public safety. In referencing specific examples of interaction between his family and Bayside police last summer, he drew a distinction between public safety (speeding, parking and disturbances) and personal activities (use of public spaces, swimming, fishing, etc).

Speaking to the proposed Waterfront Ordinance, Harry Rosenblum strongly felt that the Village shouldn't make rules it can't enforce.

Others noted that the returning lifeguards should be informed of changes in rules that will be in effect this summer regarding COVID and also if the Waterfront Ordinance is passed. Cynthia Stuen suggested a laminated sign stating the rules and posted at the dock would be useful. Discussion ensued and additional signage will be explored.

Safety Brochure: Michael Tirrell said we needed a committee to update the old safety brochure and Jessica Cohen, Maureen Einstein, and Harry Rosenblum volunteered for the task. Dick Brockway was involved in producing the last brochure, and he will be contacted and asked if any of the visuals are available for re-use.

Safety Day: Like other communities cutting back on crowded events, Bayside will not be sponsoring a Safety Day this year. The committee was in agreement to skip the event again this year.

The discussion about Safety Day came around to a focus on additional flashing speed limit signs, which are very effective in addressing speed issues in the village. One idea is to consider a Safety Day 2022 that might also serve as a fundraiser for more digital signs. More on that at a later time. The current Safety Budget does not allow for spending on additional speed signs.

Safety Budget: Michael Tirrell said that the Safety Budget would not increase for next year – but the police cruiser continues to be an area of concern. The car is aging and last year had a repairs that required spending beyond the budgeted amounts. The Safety Committee plans to focus on exploring options for funding for a new car at some point in the future – including Maine state grants.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Cressey
Michael Tirrell