

May 1, 2025 |

## 📅 Joint Meeting Commission on Disabilities and Beach Advisor...

Attendees: sharonastahl@yahoo.com susan.whooley@comcast.net Ann Courtney  
joelhkimball@aol.com Stephanie Rein Jane Lucas Noelle Scoullar Comcast  
Hannah King Chris Markowski Damion Clements Deborah Smulian Mary Abt

### Attendees:

Disabilities Commission members: Amy Rogers, Hannah King

Beach Advisory: Ann Courtney, Mary Kimball, Chris Markowski, Mary Ellen Kimball,

Sharon Stahl, Sue Whooley

Town staff: Stephanie Rein, Damion Clements, Jen Andersen

Call to order @ 4:00

Introductions

Public Comment: none

## Key Topics

### Mobi-Mat Placements

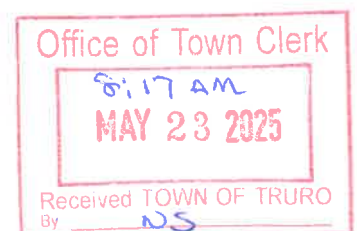
- **Locations:** Mobi-Mats are set to be installed at Coast Guard, Head of the Meadow, and Corn Hill beaches. Damion to confirm if a mat can be placed at Fisher Beach.
- **Maintenance:** Discussion about the increased maintenance hours for attendants to sweep and check Mobi-Mats. The possibility of providing brooms for public use was raised but dismissed due to liability concerns.

### Corn Hill Beach Boardwalk Replacement

- **CPC Funding:** The replacement of the Corn Hill Beach boardwalk is contingent on CPC funding, with a vote scheduled for Saturday 5/3.
- **Accessibility Concerns:** Ann shared a personal anecdote highlighting the accessibility challenges at the end of the existing boardwalk, particularly the transition from the boardwalk to the Mobi-Mat. DPW should assess the situation and explore potential solutions.

### Paddle Craft Storage

- **Online Request System:** The online request period for paddle craft storage (both racks and watercraft storage) has closed. Approximately 28 requests were received.



- **Accessibility Accommodations:** The online request system included a question about accessibility needs. Damion confirmed that the reserved spots at Corn Hill Beach and the potential lower racks at Great Hollow Beach should accommodate all such requests.
- **Great Hollow Beach Location:** Discussion about potentially installing a paddle craft rack in the bottom lot at Great Hollow Beach, as the previous location was not ideal.
- **Enforcement:** Concerns were raised about enforcing the paddle craft storage policy, as people may leave unregistered kayaks on the beach or near the racks. The current policy lacks a clear enforcement mechanism, and committee members suggested solutions such as signage, tags, and increased vigilance from beach attendants.

## Beach Wheelchairs

- **Condition and Replacement:** The committee discussed the condition of the current beach wheelchairs and the plan to purchase two new chairs at \$3,500 each.
- **Usage and Tracking:** The current practice of lending out beach wheelchairs for the entire duration of a visit was deemed flawed. A suggestion was made to implement a sign-out sheet or another tracking system to gather data on wheelchair usage and justify future grant applications. Damion indicated that there is already a protocol to fill out a waiver and this can be the system to collect data.

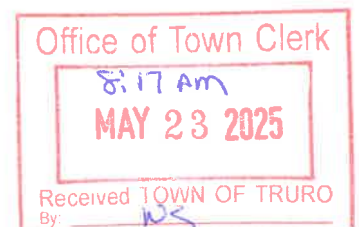
## Senior Perks Pilot Program

- **Program Overview:** The committee reviewed the Senior Perks Pilot Program, which proposes discounted beach stickers and transfer station fees for residents over the age of 65.
- **Fees:** The discounted fee for beach stickers is set at \$7.50, while the transfer station fee is \$50. The rationale behind the pricing was discussed, considering administrative costs and potential impact on town revenue.
- **Eligibility and Registration:** To be eligible, individuals must be over the age of 65 years old, have their vehicle registered in town, and provide proof of residency. Registration will be available at the Beach Sticker office.
- **Equity Discussion:** A committee member raised the question of equity, comparing the cost of the Senior Perks Program to the town's investment in early childhood programs. The discussion explored the intent behind both initiatives and the lack of a direct cost comparison.
- **Beach Advisory Committee Support:** The Beach Advisory Committee voted 4-1 in support of the Senior Perks Program's discounted beach sticker fee.

## Beach Parking Fees

- **Increased Fine:** The committee discussed and unanimously voted in favor of raising the fine for beach parking violations from \$50 to \$100 per offense.

## Issues and Concerns



- **Great Hollow Beach Railing:** A missing railing at Great Hollow Beach was reported and requires immediate attention.
- **Stair Replacement Project:** The stair replacement project is in the pre-bid phase, and the existing stairs will remain in place for the summer. DPW is responsible for ensuring the stairs are safe for public use.

## Decisions Made

- **Senior Perks Program (Beach Sticker):** The Beach Advisory Committee voted 4-1 in favor of supporting the Senior Perks Program's discounted beach sticker fee of \$7.50 for eligible residents.
- **Beach Parking Violation Fines:** The Beach Advisory Committee unanimously voted in favor of raising the fine for beach parking violations to \$100 per offense.

## Next Steps

- **Action Items:** See below
- **Beach Advisory Committee Meeting:** The next Beach Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22nd at 4:00 PM at the library. Ann will send out a draft agenda to Noelle for town approval.

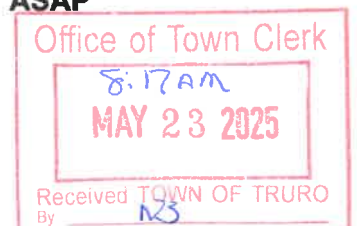
## Conclusion

- **Progress Update:** The committee made progress on several agenda items, including Mobi-Mat placements, paddle craft storage, beach wheelchair accessibility, and the Senior Perks Pilot Program.
- **Enforcement Challenges:** Enforcement of beach regulations, particularly regarding paddle craft storage, remains a concern. The committee will continue exploring solutions to address this issue.
- **Collaboration with DPW:** Collaboration with DPW is crucial for addressing infrastructure issues, such as the missing railing at Great Hollow Beach and the accessibility concerns at the Corn Hill Beach boardwalk.

## Action Items

### Damion

- **Fisher Beach Mobi-Mat:** Confirm with Jarod from DPW about placing a Mobi-Mat at Fisher Beach. **Due: ASAP**
- **Corn Hill Beach Boardwalk:** Discuss with DPW about potential temporary fixes for the end of the boardwalk to improve accessibility onto the Mobi-Mat. **Due: ASAP**
- **Paddle Craft Storage:**



- Finalize the lottery selection process for paddle craft storage, considering accessibility requests. **Closed 5/1**
- Working on installing lower paddle craft storage racks for individuals with mobility issues. **Due: Ongoing**
- Determine a process for addressing unauthorized paddle craft left on the beach or around the racks, potentially involving signage or tags. **Due: ongoing**
- **Great Hollow Beach Kayak Storage:** Someone placed the notice regarding kayak removal at Great Hollow Beach.
- **Beach Wheelchair Usage:** Collect and interpret data on beach wheelchair usage from the current tracking mechanism at Great Hollow and Corn Hill to determine if more chairs are needed.
- **Great Hollow Beach Railing:** Inform DPW about the missing railing at Great Hollow Beach and confirm repair. **Due: ASAP**

### **Ann Courtney**

- **Meeting Schedule:** Send out a draft agenda for the May 22nd Beach Advisory Committee meeting at the library. **Due: ASAP**

### **Amy and Hannah**

- **Commission on Disabilities Meeting:** Determine when the next Commission on Disabilities meeting will take place. **Due: ASAP** Damion will help to facilitate a Doodle Poll to collect potential meeting dates and set up a Zoom meeting link

