

WORKSHOP MEETING
TOWN OF LAKE GEORGE
DIAMOND POINT BEACH
5/30/2018

The Town Board has been working on the new rules and regulations for the Diamond Point Beach in the Town of Lake George.

Present: Supervisor Dickinson, Marisa Muratori, Nancy Stannard, Dan Hurley
Absent: Vinnie Crocitto

Also present: Deb Foley, Nancy Depace and several residents of Town of Lake George.

Supervisor Dickinson stated that most of the issues has been resolved but the one thing that has not been resolved is the proof of residency. The deed says “people of the Town of Lake George” the seasonal residents are “summer residents” of the Town should be able to go to the beach. Town is not quite sure what to do about it, ID cards are an option to activate a gate at the beach. The ID card would have a picture on it but wouldn’t cover your children or any other relatives that may want to also use the beach, the issue goes on and on. We do not have this issue with Usher Park. If the Town issues ID cards it would cover most of the issues. Town could issue special passes for anyone visiting for a set period of time. Supervisor stated if anyone has any ideas the Town is open to it.

Resident, Nancy Depace, stated that she read online that Town is going to close the beach at 10:00pm. Councilperson Stannard stated that with the card reader there is no need to “close” it. Nancy Depace stated that residents have no problem with a later closing but a lot of residents like to use the beach after work. Councilperson Stannard stated that the swimming would have to end when the lifeguards left. That is State law. Fisherman like to use the beach in the off season and the beach is closed from December 1st to May 1st. Councilperson Hurley stated that the card reader is about \$7,000. It wouldn’t have a picture on it but it logs that you are at the beach with a barcode type scanner.

Other residents were speaking regarding relatives being at the beach and the card reader. A resident stated he just wanted to keep tourists out. Nancy Depace stated she wants to keep the short term rental people out of the beach because it is marketed that there is a resident’s only beach. Supervisor Dickinson stated that the Town is working on a short term rental law. That is why the photo ID is needed. Councilperson Stannard stated that license would be used for the picture ID and the card would allow you to access the beach. That will keep the card reader

expense down. Councilperson Muratori stated that the lifeguards are not police. A resident stated she thought that was there job. Supervisor Dickinson reiterated that in the Town of Lake George lifeguards are not police. The Town is seriously considering the card reader.

Another resident spoke that the lifeguards are there to protect swimmers and are not police and that the head of buildings and grounds has talked about putting another lifeguard on duty to make the total number of 3.

A resident stated that the lifeguards are checking ID and that just because you may have a NJ plate does not mean you are not a property owner.

Town Board stated, again, that the lifeguards are not the police and any type of ID is not going to be 100% effective.

Supervisor Dickinson spoke to all attendees regarding the new rules and regulations and asked if they are satisfied. Supervisor Dickinson stated that people have been reported causing a nuisance on the beach after hours and the beach will be locked and that's it. There is no reason for the beach to be open all night and it is absolutely not going to be. Supervisor Dickinson stated that the ice maker in the winter was disconnected and the dock was damaged by ice fisherman. The gate will be locked all winter.

Nancy Depace spoke about the property owner to the North and stated that he is unreasonable. Supervisor Dickinson stated that is not true and as a property owner he is entitled to rights. The beach will be closed at 10:30 at night.

A resident spoke about new boathouse on property to the north and the fact that they cut down trees.

Supervisor Dickinson spoke again that the property owner to the North has rights and has the proper permits and setbacks.

Councilperson Stannard spoke about the card reader. Councilperson Hurley spoke about the card reader and having both a card and a keypad with a number to be used . If there is an emergency on the beach the sheriff or rescue squad has to be able to have access to the beach. Councilperson Stannard asked that if there is a card reader on all the time so even in the off season people can use it?

Supervisor Dickinson stated he wanted to close the public hearing on all the other issues and have another meeting with residents. He asked if there were any other issues and said he

appreciated that the residents came to voice their opinions and that it is unfortunate that this situation has escalated in the manner in which it has.

The following comments were received by Mike and Dana Seguljic who were unable to attend the meeting:

A review of the proposed Diamond Point Beach regulations revealed several deficiencies which include:

1. No language is provided to detail who is responsible for checking passes to ensure that someone is a resident of the Town – past inconsistencies with the enforcement of checking passes is one reason for much of the discourse at the Beach. There needs to be strong leadership to get the lifeguards to do their jobs (some are much better than others)
2. There is No language discussing the overall responsibilities of the Life Guards
3. The proposed codes need to make it clear that the old Beach passes are no longer to be used – they are to be replaced with a driver’s license, other VALID picture ID, or a property tax receipt (if that is the intent)
4. Closing the Beach in the Off-Season is just another example to us how the Town(s) favor wealthy lake front owners over and at the expense of people like us (lowly full time hard working tax paying and voting residents) – Another example is the Chambers fence (many people have told us that the Town made them lower their fences and turn it around to put the good side towards the neighbor (why are the Chambers different?)
 - a. Our home was marketed with year round full access to the Beach – closing it in the Off-season is inappropriate, not necessary, and a regulatory overreach by the Town and its Leaders.
 - b. There is no discussion in the regulations concerning an electronic card reader to provide residents access in the off-times.
5. Parking language is in conflict with the existing parking spaces which are present along the road.
 - a. There is no language in the proposed regulations to limit parking to those who use the Beach (we’ve noted many a car, truck, some with trailers taking up multiple spots. We see people from the Olympia and adjacent and nearby residents taking up Beach parking (they do not belong in those spaces).
6. There is no language in the proposed regulations regarding limiting the speed of vehicles along the road – we have almost hit several times by people speeding along the road...there NEEDS to be an ENFORCEABLE Speed Limit (like 5-mph). That way the police can write the Offender a Ticket.
7. The regulations need to make it clear that the Beach is a beach for the Town Residents and it is not to be leased or otherwise utilized for special functions not related to being a Town Resident who want to utilize the Beach

Additional comments (some of which bear repeating) include the following:

- Locking us out of our access to the Lake is over the top, wrong, inappropriate, and unacceptable. We bought our home because of the year round 24/7 beach/lake access - how will you locking us out for half the year impact our Quality of Life and the Sale of Our Property?
- Access to the beach should be for Town of Lake George residents only...not folks who live in Bolton with a Diamond Point mailing address. There needs to be some sort of mechanism for monitoring who is a resident and who is not.
- Parking on the access road is abused by people parking large trucks, some with trailers, many associated with the neighboring properties...vehicles parked on the access road not connected to people using the beach need to be tagged and/or towed.

As you know, at one time we were heavily involved Advocates...we now watch the antics from afar and wonder, "How can they do what they do to the very people who reside here...?" Diamond Point Beach is not only a Beach but it Provides us and many others poor folk with access to the Waters of Lake George. WHY DO YOU want to take this away from us?

Our absence at this meeting in no way reflects our lack of compassion for the beach or the Lake...it does reflect our absolute loss in respect and faith in our elected leaders. We watch time & time again how you tend to favor the rich folks, lake front owners, business people, tourism...over people like us.

Our submitted comments stand...with or without us at the Meeting, the Board is going to do what the Board is going to do.

Workshop meeting ended.

Minutes typed by Katharine Erceg.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Foley, RMC
Town Clerk