# COVID-19 Task Force Sub- Committee 3

# Meeting Minutes

**Draft-May 18, 2020**

**Members present:** BOS liaison Linda Murray, Town Manager James S. Pineo, Deputy Fire Chief Tom Zotti and Parks and Recreation Director Christine Collins.

**Recording Secretary:** Amelia M Capone-Muccio

**Guests:** Kevin Duffy, Brewster Academy

1. **Call to order:** Jim Pineo called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
2. **New Business**
   1. **Introduction**

Mr. Pineo introduced the topics of this Committee to address both Task Force # 3 Beaches and Task Force # 4 Summer Day Camp and Programs.

* 1. **Beaches Task Force #3**

Ms. Collins stated she has spent a lot of time reviewing the information provided by the Governor’s orders as well as what other communities are doing. She stated that although the beaches do not officially open until late June, they do normally have the gates open for using the facilities at your own risk. She stated there are some challenges with opening such as restroom facilities and picnic tables they will not be cleaned after each use. She stated they will need to have signage notifying the public of that and limiting the number of people at the beach to allow room for social distancing. In order to accomplish this she plans to replace lifeguards with beach attendants and those employees will be provided with PPE and required to adhere to the State guidelines

Deputy Zotti offered to review the occupant load to assist with providing space for social distancing.

Mrs. Murray stated on another committee they discusses using portable toilets instead of the restrooms and putting a sign up that they are not cleaned after each use, but they do have hand sanitizer. She noted that the beach attendants can guide people to the State beach when the occupancy is reached.

Ms. Collins replied that will be part of what the attendants do, they will have lots of signage to educate the public and although they will train the staff she will defer to the Police Department to address any conflicts. She noted last year they did purchase a sign to note when beaches are full and will utilize that again this year.

Mrs. Murray suggested the staff defer to the State Beach when the beaches are full since it has more capacity.

Mr. Pineo questioned the picnic tables.

Ms. Collins replied if they are put it out a sign would be needed to note they are not cleaned after each use and they would need to be chained to prevent them from being moved.

Kevin Duffy questioned if Brewster Beach would have a gate attendant this summer, due to the overflow parking that may occur. He suggested no picnic tables since they won’t be able to clean them after each use.

Ms. Collins replied they will have an attendant at Brewster Beach. She noted the beaches will be carry in, carry out trash.

Mr. Pineo agreed about the tables and the beach tables will be repurposed to the downtown area.

Mrs. Murray questioned closing time, will it be 5 PM or will they keep the gates open it is a hot summer day and close at dusk?

Ms. Collins replied she will be repurposing the program budget to cover the staffing of beaches and plan to close at dusk. She said she doesn’t see a big problem during the week, the weekends tend to be busier.

Mr. Pineo agreed they should close the beaches at sunset and repurposing of program funds is a good idea.

Mrs. Murray stated it looks like they need to address the following:

* Bathrooms
* Capacity
* Programs
* Social distancing
* Safety requirements of visitors and staff
* Closing time

Deputy Zotti stated he would take on the capacity portion and get that to Christine. He will also look into getting the staff some PPE.

Mrs. Murray questioned if they will repurpose masks or get news, noting it is the beach and can be hot so they will need to think about how much PPE they will need.

Mr. Pineo stated it appears this Task Force will need to meet again and will also need to add how they will plan to the information out to the public.

Ms. Collins noted they need to note that it is Memorial Day weekend so folks will be looking to use the beaches.

Mr. Pineo noted the states parks are open for recreation only and not staffed so he suggested we are not required to open them at this point based on the orders.

Deputy Zotti suggested leaving them closed but not to strictly enforce it unless it becomes an issue.

Kevin Duffy agreed, Brewster campus is closes with signage but are enforcing it the best they can and addressing situations as they arise. He stated signage is important.

Mr. Pineo questions when the Department thinks they could have a soft opening?

Ms. Collins replied she will be reaching out to staff next week to start training she questioned opening in the first of June for weekends only? She suggested remaining closed over Memorial Day weekend until they can put up the proper signage. She questioned if Brewster plans to limit the use of the beach?

Kevin Duffy replied not that he is aware of right know, he feels they plan to wait and see how the season is going with the new polices at the other beaches and what the impact will be to Brewster.

\*moving to the next task force Kevin Duffy excused himself from the meeting.

* 1. **Day Camp/ Summer programs Task Force #4**

Mr. Pineo stated he has reviewed the Governor’s orders with regards to camps and he feels such is very difficult to comply with.

Ms. Collins agreed with the model proposed she did a cost analysis and running the program per guidelines and that would put the program in the negative by $31,000. She stated the Department also sent a survey out to past participates to get a feel for if there were plans to sign up for the program with the guidelines, which she feels they may have limited participation this year because of that. She feels based on the guidelines set forth for the season and the cost to do it they realistically cannot offer this program this summer. She stated that they would like to run some programs such as movies, etc. that can be run by the guidelines.

Mrs. Murray agreed it is unknown how they feasibly run this program with all the directives set and they don’t have the capability to protect the kids.

Mr. Pineo agreed and people will not want to send their kids to a program if we can’t safely protect the kids and now there is the Kawasaki syndrome that has too many unknowns.

Ms. Collins questioned water aerobics and the sailing program? She questioned the liability of these programs to the town.

Mrs. Murray stated if these programs are advertised through the town and on town property we need to be sure people are safe. She suggested that they could address those programs when they discuss the facilities at a future meeting.

Ms. Collins noted they will also need to revisit tennis and pickle ball.

Mr. Pineo suggested Ms. Collins provide an update at this week’s Board of Selectmen’s meeting and the Committee meet again to discuss the beaches, since they plan to cancel day camp they could merge the Task Forces.

Mrs. Murray questioned not opening the Clark House but opening the Libby Museum?

Mr. Pineo replied that need to make that decision but there is not much room to social distance at the Clark House.

Being no further business before the Task Force, they adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Amelia Capone Muccio