

Minutes
Safety Committee Meeting
August 17, 2018
Blair Agency

The Safety Committee met on Beanie Einstein's porch on Friday, August 17. Committee members present were Beanie Einstein, Wendy Huntoon, Jim Huning, Michael Tirrell, and Gina Cressey. Officer Michael Boucher was present, as was Mackenzie Treadwell, one of our lifeguards. Bill Paige, Village Agent, was also in attendance.

We had a number of visitors who had come to express their concerns about safety. We had a lot more kids in the village this summer, as could be observed by enrollment in the sailing school, or just looking around. So it makes sense that most of these grave concerns have to do with the safety of children, which of course we all take seriously.

Bill Cressey recounted his impression of a visit he made to the wharf with grandkids on a busy summer day when the lifeguard had just left to take a break. In a word, mayhem. Kids were jumping off the dock at a time when it was unsafe to do so because of tide level. Bill addressed them in his professorial voice and got them to stop. Then he saw a boy, around eleven, push a younger girl off the dock. Bill told him sternly that that was no go, and the boy replied, "Oh, it's OK, she's my sister." Funny answer, but dangerous behavior.

Nan Thorpe, concerned about speeding and kids, asked if cost was the only obstacle to buying removable speed bumps to be in place for the busy season. Many people who see them in other communities have suggested them over the years. Wendy replied that she has been told that there are liability concerns as well as cost issues.

Ryan Fryer has bought a cottage at 11 George St. He has three children and is concerned about speeding on George St. and elsewhere. He would like to see more blinking lights and more traffic stops by the officer. He would also like to see more instances of double coverage, as on the Fourth of July.

Jessica Cohen is another new homeowner on George St. with several children. She complained of speeding by contractors, oil trucks, dump trucks, et al. She thinks that more flashing signs would be a big help.

Bette Woolsey pointed out that George St. is owned by Northport, which limits what we are able to do there.

Jim Huning said that he has been trying to work with Northport re: trimming a tree which blocks vision of drivers near his home on Shore Rd., but to no avail.

Michael Boucher said that a handheld radar gun (\$1,200) would allow him to apprehend speeders much faster than the limited equipment the police car is equipped with.

It was evident that the above safety problems can only be resolved by spending more money for flashing signs (\$2,000), more lifeguard and police coverage, et al. We're delighted to see more kids in the village, but it increases our obligation to provide a safe environment for all of them. Jim Huning pointed out that the great majority of Bayside home owners have other homes and could well afford to pay more taxes. Several people said they thought Baysiders would be willing to pay more for a safer community. Wendy explained how thin the Overseers have to spread the available funds, and the cost of the new seawall is a big concern.

Other topics: Alma Homola's issue is the DO NOT ENTER sign near the bottom of Park Row, and her neighbor, Ed Lord, backed her up. She'd like to see it moved closer downhill where it would be more visible. Drivers coming up Park Row cause a congested and dangerous situation. She made her point several times and said that she has visited our committee about this three times, which is true.

Wendy thought there might be some legal constraint here, and she will research. Alma would like to see a tighter parking ordinance and more NO DRINKING signs.

Another not-new problem is underage drinking on land and on water, in cars, and on foot. We need to get the parents involved in addressing this ongoing issue. It's not just a safety concern but can potentially affect their kids' futures. Michael Boucher explained Maine's zero tolerance law, which is a lot stricter than many of us realized. There are penalties involved that would not enhance anyone's college application, for example. There are also huge fines for adults who enable kids.

Those of us who were and/or had teenagers in Bayside readily acknowledge that there's nothing new about this; it's just more "out there." Young people speaking disrespectfully to the officer who is trying to deal with underage drinking is a more recent and ugly dimension. By working together, we can try to get adults and kids to work together and treat each other respectfully. We talked about meeting with parents early next summer and getting someone to address kids at a Jr. NYC meeting. Kids should be given a chance to speak on this topic, and ideas on how to achieve this are welcomed by the Safety Committee.

Lifeguard Mackenzie Treadwell asked if smoking is allowed on the dock. The most frequent offenders are fisherman, and she doesn't know what she should say to them. Michael Boucher said that Maine law outlaws smoking on the dock and in parks. Bill Paige thinks this is mentioned on a dock sign, along with other things, and that it used to be painted on the dock in big letters. Oh that's right! Maybe we could try that again, with even bigger letters on the fishing float.

We discussed desirability of some police coverage for residents who live here year-round. Wendy pointed out that contractors speeding isn't just a summer problem. Michael Boucher believes that the state of Maine would cover some of those costs. The application process begins January 1, and they will want some police coverage starting at least by April.

Illegal beach fires continue. We look to see positive change next summer now that the Overseers have written some rules with teeth. Information will be distributed to every cottage for posting in a prominent place. Michael Tirrell suggested two inserts on the topics of fires and speeding. Nan Thorpe and Bette Woolsey mentioned contacting rental agents as well as owners. Fines will be hefty.

We learned that Mackenzie and Officer Boucher would like to return next summer.

In closing, thanks to our chair, Wendy Huntoon, for her effective leadership. Wendy's belief that most meetings should be done in one hour was put to the test at this meeting by the big turnout of speakers. She brought it in within five minutes of that goal. Good job, Wendy; your Dad would have been proud!

Respectfully,
Gina Cressey