

Gurnet-Saquish Work Group, Meeting Notes, 3/11/2020
SmartPak, Plymouth

Attendees: C. Meichsner, D. Meichsner, B. McGlathery, C. Luttazi, F. Weiler, D. Bosworth, L. Leonard, D. Day, S. Day, C. Mostello. On phone: D. Scott, L. Scott, D. Bien, M. Bartlett, C. Gosselin, B. Gosselin, H. Esposito, J. Esposito, L. Neacy, T. Campbell.

News: Piping plovers are back in Massachusetts. A bird was seen at Sandy Neck, Barnstable a few days ago.

Trespass

- Last week, 5 cars with high school students doing donuts and racing down the beach. Fender bender occurred. Duxbury PD was called and they intercepted all vehicles. Drivers claimed they were allowed to be out there because parents belonged to Duxbury Yacht Club.
- On 3/10, a couple of 20-somethings had cookout gear and were starting a fire in front of house. When they were apprehended about it, they moved down the beach. Duxbury PD were called, then Plymouth PD, which responded and removed the people.
- Per C. Gosselin, Duxbury(?) PD advised that we should approach PD about trespass as a larger group, e.g., Boulevard Realty Trust (Saquish Beach Land Trust?) or GS Corp. Have them lodge complaint.
- Suggestion that we ask PD to request that parents show up at station to collect their kids.

Recap of meeting with Plymouth Police Department (PD) on 2/13/2020

- Chief Botieri, Capt. Manuel, S. Day, B. Hartigan, D. Meichsner, B. Gosselin, J. Esposito, C. Luttazi, and C. Mostello attended.
- Plymouth PD agrees that Plymouth residents do not have right to be on town property at Gurnet-Saquish.
- Call Plymouth PD first if there are trespassers, not Duxbury PD. Plymouth PD won't call Duxbury PD out for minor incidents.
- Plymouth PD will write incident report. It is up to residents to file a complaint and prosecute.
- If property owners get pictures of license plates of violators, PD will run the plates and follow up with operators upon residents' request.
- Call Plymouth PD if vehicle won't stop at gate check.
- Plymouth PD willing to carry outreach materials (e.g., brochures) in vehicles to hand out to trespassers.
- Trespassers compromise public safety by parking in emergency egress at G-S.
- Plymouth PD will talk with town officials about the possibility of installing camera(s) to assist with public safety. As of 3/11, Chief Botieri had not heard back.

Reviewed (1) Communication Methods and (2) Messaging for Audiences spreadsheets

- Information in the spreadsheets form the basis of how we communicate and what we say, which we will do mostly in a positive manner.
- Work group members should review spreadsheets closely and send Carolyn any additional suggestions. Several suggestions made in the meeting. Carolyn will edit spreadsheets.
- Owners are responsible for communicating information to some audiences (e.g., renters, contractors, etc.). Bird info could be included in rental agreements.

Outreach materials

- Reviewed a PowerPoint with some outreach materials, many of them from the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI) website
 - <https://atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/outreach-materials/>
 - These are all downloadable and available for use, per the website
 - We can use these for ideas and modify these as needed
- Carolyn will send PowerPoint and look into whether Canadian plover logo w/green circle is available for use

Prioritization of strategies

- Brochures, signs, and kids activity/coloring books were all identified as priorities. These can be used to reach multiple audiences.
- M. Pinto may be able to assist with printing needs, as he has a publishing business.
- At least 2 types of signs needed: no trespass and chicks-in-area.
- MassWildlife may have leftover “Restricted Area” signs
- Chick signs should be used primarily from the Nichols property to the crossover.
- B. Gosselin willing to pay for signs.
- Group should come to agreement with what’s on the signs
 - Differing opinions on how much wording should be on the signs
 - Also need to decide if signs should carry a group name, and what that should be.
 - “Partnership between Gurnet/Saquish communities and MassWildlife” suggested
 - MassWildlife feels it’s most important that the community is identified on the signs

Funding

- Carolyn suggests that group apply for a HCP grant. Funding comes from mitigation funds provided by HCP participants.
- The funding category would be “Strategic education and outreach”
- Could fund signs, brochures, crayons, refrigerator magnets, etc. Could potentially fund some gate watch hours if there is an outreach component.
- A detailed budget must be part of the proposal. Most awards are \$2000 - \$8000.

- Try to submit as soon as possible, but funding can't always be committed right away; must be placed in escrow by HCP participants first.
- Carolyn will send description of grant opportunity and will look into whether an organization (vs. an individual) must apply.
- Note that awardees are reimbursed for expenses, so someone must be willing to front the funding.

Vehicle Management Plan

- The messaging identifies for owners would be the backbone of a vehicle management plan. Carolyn will work on drafting the plan.
- MassWildlife is still thinking about an appropriate way for owners to pledge to follow best practices for driving.
- Residents want clarity on how long they may have to wait for chicks to cross road before DBR can herd them out of the way. That needs to be worked out between DBR and MassWildlife.

Other

- Residents are frustrated that a silt fence cannot be erected along the majority of the road to keep plovers from getting killed. Currently there is no legal way for MassWildlife to allow this.
- DBR can work with Town of Plymouth to symbolically fence some of the area at G-S that needs to be fenced for the birds.
- Materials needed for closing off access points to the beach

Action items

- **Check-in conference call scheduled for 3/25, 6 pm. Carolyn will set up.**
- **Work group members should review (1) Communication Methods and (2) Messaging spreadsheets and send Carolyn any suggestions**
- **Carolyn and Dawn to work on brochure**
- **Bob to work on bird sign with input from group with what should be on sign**
- **Carolyn to work on no trespassing sign**
- **Carolyn to send PowerPoint of outreach materials and look into whether Canadian plover logo is available for use**
- **Work group should coordinate to decide if they want to submit a funding proposal and to develop it**
- **Carolyn will clarify what type of entity can receive funding**
- **DBR will ensure that beach staff know they aren't permitted at G-S**
- **Carolyn will work on drafting the Vehicle Management Plan**