

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2019

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA time 7:30PM to 8:30PM

Attendees:

John	Blackadar	SSN
Bill	Burchill	SSN
Dodie	Carvalho	NSF
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Paul	Greene	SSN
Ken	Hayes	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	
Vin	Malkoski	DMF / Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State U / Sea Rovers
James	Nannery	MWDC / BSC VP
Ray	Porter	NSF
Wendy	Quimby	MWDC
Dan	Sprague	NEADC
Dave	Stillman	Project Deep
Mike	Vaughan	NEADC
Michael	Wright	MWDC

Organizations represented:

Mass Division of Marine Fisheries
MetroWest Dive Club (MWDC)
New England Aquarium Dive Club (NEADC)
North Shore Frogmen's Club (NSF)
Project Deep
Salem State University
Sea Rovers
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)

New England Aquarium

World Oceans Day is Sunday, June 9. Topic: "Marine Debris" or "Trash-Free Seas".

No official space for BSC yet, Vinny will check.

Jim will call Paul Adler about borrowing his helmet.

Rockport, MA

At issue is a beach rule on the books in Rockport for about 20 years which requires groups conducting commercial events on the beaches to acquire a permit from the Rockport DPW for each event for a specific location and time. Large non-commercial "groups" are also required to get a permit for a specific location and time.

The rule has been construed to mostly mean that SCUBA instructors need to have permits for their classes. The rule has not been enforced and there was no penalty, so it was generally ignored over the past several years.

Because of the persistent complaints of one resident on Back Beach, the rule has been resurrected by the town and police have been asked to enforce it.

For a “small” group, request permit from DPW. For a larger group, permit must be obtained from selectmen’s meeting.

Questions:

What defines a “group”?

Do divers draw more attention than artists, photographers, birders, surfers?

What is the maximum size for a “small” group?

Richard Souza emailed Whitney Boyle (Undersea Divers), Dave Stillman and others in the diving industry, and invited them to a meeting next Tuesday morning, 6/4/19.

Dave’s thought is that the meeting with Souza is to determine what the diving community questions are and how best to address them. He will try to get Angelo Correnti included in any future meetings, and will request that meetings be held in the evening. He will make sure the BSC is involved and that the Rockport officials are aware of the BSC and its power of legal counsel.

On Sat 4/27/19 Dave received a warning from Rockport police that he needed a permit to hold SCUBA classes on the beach. That Monday got permits for first 2 weeks of May, and police were relieved he had a permit next time he was questioned.

Noted:

that this complainant also wants the rest rooms and trash containers at back beach removed. As he is complaining that divers undress at the beach, this seems unreasonable.

that Back Beach is the only instruction beach that can accommodate handicapped divers and wheel chairs.

that divers do a lot of beach clean-ups in Rockport.

that public access is the law, but preventing that is common.

Suggestion was made that club divers deny being a “group” if asked, rather state that they are individuals diving with a buddy.

Game plan:

Jim Nannery will plan to attend the meeting with Dave Stillman on Tuesday.

Dodie Carvalho, who is a Rockport resident, plans to go to Chamber of Commerce to speak to them about this issue, to explain potential loss of business to Rockport commercial establishments.

Dave will bring up the topic to the Harbor Advisory Committee, requesting they advise town meeting to work against the permit requirement.

BSC will meet again in couple of weeks to discuss the outcomes of the above, June 19.

Diver Dollars: Suggest the use of \$2 bills by divers would be a good way to make diver money known to Rockport establishments. \$2 bills can be requested of banks and distributed to dive club members at meetings, etc.

Council Dive – September :

Jim will send PDF of flyer to Ted tomorrow for website and Facebook page.

Vinny and Ted will help John with prizes.

Permit is already pulled.

Info needs to be sent to dive shops soon, but not too early because it does get lost.

Ask Victor if he will be able to come to the event to help with list of donors.

Salem State University:

Ted Maney noted that the mussel farming is going “dynamite”, 5 year aquaculture consortium, \$2.2m.

Next meeting: scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2019