

Beaches Working Group  
5 pm August 18, 2021  
Conference Rm. A, Kittery Town Hall

- I. Draft Statement of the Problem for Discussion – Kittery has had a long tradition of small nighttime fires at Seapoint and Crescent Beaches. Many in Town view them as innocent way for families and friends to enjoy the beach after dark with little impact on the beach. The number of nighttime fires, however, has increased significantly in the past two years from several to almost twenty some nights, drawing increased numbers of people with attendant trash and late-night noise. Fires are sometimes not extinguished. Several of what have become seemingly permanent fire pits are located at the marsh edge, creating a potential marsh fire hazard. Fire materials range from logs to pallets to construction debris. Garbage is sometimes buried in the firepits with broken glass and cans scattered around the firepit. In past years, the Seapoint parking lot attracted late night revelers – a significant nuisance for those with property directly on the beach. But the increase in use has resulted in some evenings when there is so much smoke and noise that abutters need to keep their windows closed.
- II. Users of beach potentially affected by any fire policy: Abutters, neighbors, families/young people enjoying a night-time fire/cook-out; daytime beach goers, including picnickers, walkers, dog walkers; educational groups; fisherman; stargazers; others.
- III. Generate List of Options:
  - Leave unchanged
  - Develop permit system: Limit number, location, hours of fires; limit by residency; prohibit construction debris, glass; require fire extinguished by water; restrict parking, other.
  - Ban fires entirely
- IV. Criteria for Success
- V. Schedule Next Meeting