

**Town of Richfield**  
**Baker's Beach Commission**  
**June 28th, 2020**

**Call to order**

Larry Frigault called to order the inaugural meeting of the Bakers Beach Commission.

**Roll call**

The following persons were present: Larry Frigault – Chair, Steve Scheick, Paul Palumbo, Ryan Fagan, Bethann Hammer.

Barb Sluyter, Polly Renckens, and Judy Stone had responded they were unavailable for various reasons.

Also in attendance was Don Urtz who was invited by Larry Frigault to give a presentation on the history of Baker's Beach.

**Discussions:**

Don Urtz presented a brief history of the Beach and some interesting facts about the beach's namesake – The Bakers as well as the most recent significant event in 1977 when the parcel was sold by Schneider Family to the Town for \$1. Don also had several photos which Ryan Fagan is going to have reproduced for distribution to the members at a later date.

Larry Frigault then made remarks explaining this commission has been formed to support the recommendations set forth in the Joint Comprehensive Plan concerning the importance and value of having better Parks and Recreation. Two Handouts were distributed from the Plan for members to consider. Further remarks stated the commission will explore ideas for improvements and expansions, prioritize these, and develop them to the point of building a business case and identifying possible funding solutions. At that point the Commission would turn this work over to the Town Board for their consideration. The hope would be short term, mid-term, and long-term plans.

The members were then asked "Why they decided to serve and what they hoped to accomplish". A number of excellent points were shared, summarized:

All see Baker's as an outstanding Town asset

A very high percentage of the people who take advantage of Baker's are not residents

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Times are different with perhaps fewer families interested in a day at the beach than might have been true in the past.

NY State Parks, public and private are seeing record attendance and booked way ahead for various activities private parties, camping, etc.

All would like to see Baker's improved and better utilized.

A tour of all the buildings then was then conducted for members to see the condition of the several buildings which make up Baker's. Discussion was had about the Gate Shed which is in a significant state of disrepair, feelings were divided about repair or removal.

A discussion was then had about the decision to close Baker's for the summer and the fact the Town Board plans to use money saved from operations to upgrade the water systems to the standards mandated by the Department of Health.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted – Larry Frigault