

## 2018 Beach Fee Structure

The Recreation Department was present at the October 17<sup>th</sup> Open Forum at the Board of Selectmen's meeting to hear concerns voiced by residents regarding the 2017 beach fee structure. Following the Open Forum, the Recreation Advisory Committee held their October meeting and weighed various options in response to the feedback provided.

The public hearing held in October did not provide any unanimous feedback. Opinions ranged from allowing free access to the beach as part of the tax base, to charging user fees, to not guarding the beach, to adding additional guards. Understanding that not all feedback can be satisfied, the Sharon Recreation Department is presenting option(s) that we feel cover the majority of feedback that came before the committee, within the parameters of our control.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Recreation Advisory Committee voted in favor of staffing a gate guard at all three gates allowing entrance into the beach from the walking path (Gunhouse to Massapoag). Anyone entering the walking path must present a season pass or purchase a daily walk-in pass for entry inside the gate.

Memorial Day weekend typically marks the start of the beach season. Over the past few years, weather has been unpredictable and at times, too cold to operate the beach so early in the season. As a result, we are presenting three options for consideration in setting the 2018 beach fees.

**Option A:** In this scenario, Veteran's Memorial Park Beach will open Memorial Day weekend. Operations will continue for weekends only until the last day of school and daily thereafter. This budget estimate will result in a projected (\$11,170) net loss.

**Option B:** In this scenario, Veteran's Memorial Park Beach would open for the season on the last day of school. This projected budget estimate will result in a projected (\$5,128.00) net loss. We would have a gate attendant present to open restroom facilities from 10am-7pm. Swim would be at your own risk.

**Option C:** Keep the rates established for the 2017 season and operate accordingly.

In all scenarios presented, Community Center Beach would open the day after school release and close mid-August.

In both option A or B, the fees established reflect the ability to purchase car passes and admission would include any individuals inside the vehicle, resident or otherwise. The car itself must be registered to a resident of Sharon which is confirmed during our registration process while using our software, City Hall Systems. Any non-residents wishing to gain access to the beach could continue to purchase passes and use the facility at Community Center Beach (219 Massapoag Avenue).

The projected budget created is based on the current published 2017-18 school calendar. Should this winter, the Town of Sharon experience any inclement weather closures, the schedule would be adjusted accordingly.