



Dear Residents,

We are attaching this letter to update our residents regarding the opening of First Beach. We understand the concerns surrounding the closure signs posted on June 28, 2022. We want to give some insight so our residents know what is happening and what our board is doing.

Our board has had multiple conversations on our public meetings to inform and discuss the issues regarding lifeguards for this year. However we know that many residents are unable to login to join in these discussions. To provide those who are unaware some insight we can make our community aware that there is a shortage of lifeguards this year and many management companies are unable to service lakes. Although we very much wanted to have a lifeguard we are not able to do so. We all want the beach open so we went forward with opening without a lifeguard.

Our grounds committee started the process of ordering new signs for our beach to not only provide more aesthetically pleasing signs, since the signs posted were faded, but to also update the language to ensure they were in compliance. This was going to be especially important since we were not going to be able to have a lifeguard this year. Our lawyer directed our grounds lead, George, to discuss the language of the signs with the board of health to ensure that they were done correctly. It was at this time that we were provided the standards for all aspects of our beach opening that had changed quite a bit since our longest standing member could remember needing to be met in past years.

Our volunteers were preparing to work through this list around their own personal lives and careers, however the board of health wasn't clear on a few of the items they said were required. The board of health inspector was kind enough to come to our beach in person to assist us in ensuring our beach was compliant and provided a clear list of what was needed. In addition he made us aware that a beach attendant was an option that we were not aware of that will not only make us compliant, but will elevate many other concerns that were brought up by not having a lifeguard in attendance. So our residents will see a posting that we will be hiring one as soon as possible so we can have that aspect of the requirements checked off and get us closer to an official opening.

Our board is unable to or capable of policing the beach. The temporary signs posted were put in place for liability purposes while we are working with the board of health on the language of the permanent signs and working through the rest of the requirements. However during the in person meeting with the board of health it was determined it was best that an official closure sign be posted to deter bathers from attending the beach while we get compliant and ensure the safety of our residents and to deter non residents from attending as well.

We apologize for the delay in our beach opening. As you all know our board is made of volunteers with our own personal careers and time restraints. None of our members are experts or even have experience in many of the issues we face. We have to lean on professionals for guidance to ensure we are doing what is right by the community. It has been a while since our beach has been open and we are happy to know that when we do it will be compliant, safe, and we will have the experience of this going forward to ensure future seasons are timely in opening.

We understand being disappointed. We also have families that want to enjoy the beach and we also pay dues we want to see be used for our favorite benefit of being a member, our beach. We want to assure our residents we are working as quickly as possible to get the board of health's requirements resolved so we can distribute beach tags and officially open the beach for the community to enjoy for the remainder of the summer.

We also wanted to assure the residents that the water has been tested and has been passing so the closure was not due to water results.

Lastly, we want to encourage all our residents to contact the board directly for questions if they would like answers. Speculation on social media pages can result in false information and fear amongst residents. The email addresses and phone number to reach a board member is listed on our website for any one to find.

Sincerely,

Donna Sutts  
President