

# Town committee will study beach bans, landscaping rules

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Several new rules could be coming to town beaches this fall.

The Town Council last week asked its Ordinances, Rules and Standards Committee to study banning plastic balloons and bags from island beaches and also limiting beach

hours.

The Loggerhead Marine-life Center pushed for the balloon ban in May as part of a multi-city campaign to protect sea turtles. Deflated balloons resemble jellyfish, a common prey for the turtles, according to the Juno Beach-based research, rehabilitation and education facility. Mayor Gail

Coniglio asked that the committee also study a town-wide plastic bag ban to be “proactive” in an initiative that is already “sweeping the country.”

Beach hours could be changed, as well.

Last month, town officials began locking gates to public beaches from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., the hours specified in town code.

But the council wants the committee to consider changing the hours to “sunset to sunrise” so residents and visitors can enjoy the beach at dawn.

## **Leaf blowers**

The town also could decide to ban leaf blowers on the island. The committee is expected to study that item this fall as well.

A group of residents has formed to promote the ban.

The committee also will study tightening summer landscaping work hours. Currently workers can use noisy lawn equipment between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. but some residents want the summer hours to mirror winter hours, which are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fifth study item sent to the committee is a provision in the building code that limits property owners to one general contractor at a time. Owners say the restriction hampers their ability to complete multiple improvement projects simultaneously.

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