



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting July 10, 2023

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on July 10, 2023 at 7:03 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

Ann Canedy
William Carey
William Monroe
Maureen Piccione

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Maureen Piccione, Bill Monroe, and Bill Carey.

Board Members absent: Ann Canedy.

Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, and Natural Resource Officer, Antonio Mancha.

Staff Member absent:

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Paul Berger, Tracy Hallett, and Rich French.

Guest Speaker:

Act on Minutes:

On a motion by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the May 8, 2023 Board Minutes.

Notes from the Chair:

Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. He reported that he had checked on the delayed appointment to the Sandy Neck Board from the Recreation Department. Rene King, Recreation Chair invited Tom to their meeting, where he explained the position on the Sandy Neck Board. After the meeting, Rene said she would temporarily accept the position on the Sandy Neck Board until it could be permanently filled. Rene went through the required process through the town and was appointed to the Sandy Neck Board. Tom said she couldn't make it to the July meeting but will attend in August. Bill Carey asked if there was a policy about missing meetings. Tom said there was nothing he could find to indicate that that statement was true.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report: Nina Coleman addressed the Board. **Taken out of order. * See attached report.**

- Full summer mode. Gatehouse staffed from 8am to 9pm. There is an overnight attendant. Off Road Vehicle Beach is open 8am-10pm; all vehicles must be through the Gatehouse by 9pm in order to go off road.
- Off Rod Vehicle, (ORV), beach hours are 8am-10pm. Campfires at 7pm or sunset whichever comes first.
- Off Road Vehicle Beach, (ORV), is open 1.1 miles. Nina has been emailing the Board with this information. The Off Road Vehicle Beach, (ORV), had been reduced down to one mile and there were three nests right past the closure line. Those three nests were lost due to over-wash. All three nests re-nested and were lost to over-wash again. That put the beach open at 1.1 miles. A substantial tern colony is holding the beach to 1.1 miles. Hard to predict timing with a tern colony. Nina will keep everyone informed.
- Beach is very wide and we have not had to double stack vehicles. There are 60 Camper sites on the beach and we could add more if needed. We are the only beach open at this time. We have not turned anyone away.
- Nina stated that with the Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), we deterred plovers up to 0.6 miles. Actively, heavily, aggressively deterred. We had a plover nest at .06 miles, but that nest was lost to over-wash. We had three plovers try to nest in that 0.6 miles but we were able to deter them. No additional closures this year. There are 56 plover pairs this year which is a record.
- July fourth was impacted by weather. Two medical emergencies around the fourth. One at the Cottage Colony and one on the front beach. Both situations were handled smoothly and everything turned out well.
- Natural Resource Officer, Josh Kelleher has been accepted to the Environmental Police. Stellar staff member and will be an Environment Police Officer. Was instrumental in the rescue jet ski program. He also worked for the West Barnstable Fire Department. Nina stated that many of the staff, due to housing issues on the Cape, has to battle going back and forth over the bridges to work. Kris Clark suggested that the Board write a letter of thanks to Josh Kelleher for his service to the Town Of Barnstable. She asked for an official motion and vote on this matter. Bill Monroe stated the motion, with Pete Sampou seconding. The vote was called and was unanimous in the decision to write Josh a letter of thanks from the Board.
- Nina spoke about the Sandy Neck emergency response vessel. Josh pulled it together and as Sandy Neck is in a difficult position as we are not close to emergency response. Sandy Neck now has an emergency response jet ski. Nina noted that we don't have lifeguards this year and the jet ski is on the beach ready to be deployed.
- Diamondback Terrapins nesting are taking place and we are almost at 400 nests. All vehicles must be on the lookout and drive slowly on the Great Marsh Trail. Rich French asked about putting up a turtle crossing sign on the road. There are some signs on Route 6A already and Nina said we could put more up.
- Tom asked about the large crowd issues on the Cape and should we worry about Sandy Neck. Nina said we were too pro-active and would not let it even get to that point.

Old Business:

Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.

1. Economic sustainability.

- 2. Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill Monroe addressed the Board. Jordan Munoz's Eagle Scout Project is almost complete. Benches for use by the public while walking and hiking have been built and placed with one bench remaining to be placed. Bill said they would work with Hannah for the final bench placement. Donna said that the public has a lot of positive comments and are appreciative of the benches. Although there were some challenges, Bill said Jordan overcame the obstacles and did a great job. Tom said that Jordan would be welcomed back to give a final report to the Board. Bill said he would speak to Jordan and let Donna know when he was ready to go before the Board.

- 3. Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. There was another public meeting held which went really well. We are now ready to go from sixty-five percent design to ninety percent design which includes the beginning of the permitting process. This phase also begins to some extent, the funding process. Leslie Fields, who is the project manager, has been gathering letters of support to send to Coastal Zone Management, (CZM), for continued funding of the project. Tom has drafted a letter of support on behalf of the Sandy Neck Board in support of moving forward with the project and funding. ***see attached letter.**

The letter has to be sent by tomorrow. Tom read the letter to the Board and asked if there was any discussion. Bill Carey said the letter was excellent. There was a discussion regarding what is already in the plan and parking spaces may be an issue regarding number of spaces.

Tom asked for a motion to accept the letter as written and send it to Coastal Zone Management, (CZM), with Pete Sampou making the motion and Bill Carey seconding. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion and motion was passed.

Pete spoke about the Cape Cod Times doing an excellent article regarding the project and erosion along the beaches. Kris Clark said at the last Town Council meeting the Town Manager announced that there are not going to be any fireworks and explained that there would be no beach raking along the south side beaches. He also said that Nina was very experienced in endangered species and beach management. Kudos to Nina and the staff, as being held up as an example of how to manage endangered species and the beach.

New Business: None.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:

Public Comment: Rich French addressed the Board. He asked that once the project goes to ninety percent design, does that secure the funding. Does that lock in the funding from Coastal Zone Management, (CZM)? Tom and Nina said that the funds requested from Coastal Zone Management, (CZM), are to get to the ninety percent design. Tom spoke about all the details that are left to be completed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:



July 10 – Staff
Report.pptx



Letter from
Board.pdf