



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

**SANDY NECK BOARD**  
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## **Sandy Neck Board Meeting** **May 13, 2024**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on May 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

William Carey  
William Monroe  
Maureen Piccione  
Rene King  
Rich French

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr  
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:  
Chris Kelsey

### **Roll Call:**

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

Board Members absent:

Staff: Sandy Neck Park Manager, Nina Coleman, and Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg.

Staff Member absent:

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison: Chris Kelsey.

Public: Wendy Paquette.

Guest Speaker:

### **Act on Minutes:**

On a motion from Bill Monroe and seconded by Rich French, the Board voted on the acceptance of the April 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

**Notes from the Chair:** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. Tom welcomed Rich French as new Board Member. There are two Board Members whose terms are about to expire. Tom O'Neill and Maureen Piccione. They are filing their applications. Rich French should renew automatically, but Rich will check on that to make sure.

**Out of order \*** Tom spoke about the discussion of fees coming up in September and he asked the the Board to start thinking about the process.

**Correspondence:** Tom sent in a letter of support on behalf of the Board for funding of the Sandy Neck Coastal Resiliency Project.

**Staff Report:** Nina Coleman addressed the Board. \* See attached report.

- Gatehouse hours are 8am-9pm daily.
- We are in summer hours. Off Road Vehicle Beach is open 8am-10pm daily. Campfires are allowed.
- Selling campfire permits at Gatehouse at 5pm daily for the Public.
- Portable toilets are now on the beach.
- Staff is coming back in.
- Speed limit is 5mph on the Off-Road Vehicle Beach. Plovers are everywhere. Rene asked about signs on the beach connecting speed limit with danger to wildlife. Nina explained we have signage as well as speed radar sign.
- **Upcoming Events:**
- 5/15, Spring Flora and Fauna Hike, 10am-noon.
- 5/16 Spring Walking Weekend, 10-11:30am. Town of Barnstable.
- 6/7 Public Diamondback Terrapin release, 4pm.
- 6/27 Off Road Vehicle, (ORV), course for beginners, 5:30-7pm. Email Gatehouse to register. Sandyneck@town.barnstable.ma.us
- Donna ran the ORV 101 course for women, and it went well with nine attending.
- Plovers are just starting to nest, currently we have 25 nests. Big sections of the beach are heavily eroded, and plovers are concentrating in certain areas. The Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), area is heavily flagged.
- Fifty-seven nests last year were a record number of plover nests. Two years in a row of record number of nests.

## **Old Business:**

- **Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.**
- **Economic sustainability.** None.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill Monroe addressed the Board. A couple of Scouts are inquiring about projects on Sandy Neck. Early Stages. Tom mentioned the Osprey pole that was put up and how good it looks. No Ospreys yet. An educational sign is in progress. The Scout will present it to the Board when installation of signage has been completed.
- Pete Sampou reported about the Halfway House was cleaned by Pete and his students and is ready to go. AmeriCorps spent a night out there prior to performing a Sandy Neck project. Rene King asked about how the Halfway House works. Nina said it is done through Sandy Neck and to contact Donna. Certain qualifications are required to use the Halfway House. Tom said there has been discussion regarding getting more usage out of the Halfway House. Rene King stated that the Barnstable Youth Commission is working on environmental issues and the Halfway House may be something they could visit in the future. There was a discussion on the benefits of the Halfway House. Tom wants ideas for the next Board meeting. Halfway House will be put on the May Board agenda.
- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board. There have been several milestones since last Board meeting. The project went before the Conservation Commission and closed in one night and the Conservation Commission is drafting Orders of Conditions. The Conservation Management Plan has been submitted to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and that is the next big step in getting approval. Trying to stay on track for beginning the project this fall. There has also been a funding grant submitted. Many letters of support regarding the grant and project have poured in, in support of the project. The Archaeological survey has been completed and we have been cleared. The site has been flagged and there are maps at the Gatehouse for anyone to view.

**New Business:** None.

**Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:** None.

**Public Comment:** Wendy Paquette addressed the Board. She began by saying she was thrilled to see Rich French back on the Board. Nina and the staff have been invited to the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association Spring get-together at Scussett State Park on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Wendy extended the invitation to any Board Members who would like to attend. The meeting starts at 2pm.

Rene King said the Rotary Club of Hyannis will host an electronic waste day on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 8am-noon at the Barnstable Intermediate school with a portion of the proceeds going back to the school for environmental studies.

Bill Carey mentioned the article Tom had sent to the Board members regarding resiliency projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:



May 13th – Staff  
Report.pptx



Letter of Support  
Sandy Neck Board.d