



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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## Sandy Neck Board Meeting December 08, 2008

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell  
Lynn Heslinga  
Nate King  
George Muhlebach  
Peter Sampou

Council Liaison:

Henry Farnham

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on December 08, 2008 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Rich French.

### Roll Call:

- Board Members present: George Muhlebach, Barbara Bell, Bill Carey, Pete Sampou, and Rich French.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Public: Lynne Poyant, Director of Community Services Department.

### Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the November minutes with the following correction: *George Muhlebach and Pete Sampou abstained from voting [on the October minutes] because they were not at that meeting.*

### Correspondence:

- none

### Staff Report:

*Nina Coleman addressed the Board:*

- The gatehouse is closed for the season and open by appointment only.
- Newly hired Natural Resource Officer, Matt Gough, will be assigned to Sandy Neck. This will alleviate the need for a dedicated Sandy Neck Natural Resource Officer. Officer Gough will come to the next meeting so the Board can meet him.
- There is now an osprey pole at Trail 2. That makes a total of five poles (≈one pole every mile).

### Old Business:

◆ **Bathhouse Update:**

**Nina Coleman:** Received "bad news" from the State. The DEP will not allow any change to the existing footprint of the bathhouse and parking lots. This means that there can not be any expansion of the parking lot to replace the 70+ spaces lost over the years due to erosion. This is very frustrating and extremely disappointing.

**Rich French:** Extremely disappointed. All that hard work and we have nothing to show for it. The state has said we can not "do anything" that involves the primary dune. Cost is the key. We need money to do the work but we can not increase the parking to make the money – catch 22 situation.

**Lynne Poyant:** Reiterated that we did not get permission/permits from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to do any work that we have requested at Sandy Neck.

**Rich French:** We meet with the State again on December 18<sup>th</sup> and will have more information for the next Sandy Neck meeting.

**Bill Carey:** Wants to make sure that we have pursued all the avenues available. Needs "closure". Would like to see a written document with what was denied and why.

◆ **Barnstable Dredge Project:**

*Rich French:* The dredge work in Barnstable Harbor is starting this week. Everything is going on as planned.

◆ **Marsh Trail Repair update:**

*Rich French:* Nothing to report this month.

*Nina Coleman:* The cottage owners have submitted a list which will be reviewed after the holidays.

**New Business:**

◆ **Proposed Smoking Ban on Bodfish Beach:**

*Nina Coleman addressed the Board*

At the November 3rd meeting of the Town’s Recreation Commission, they voted to ban smoking on public beaches. They are asking if Bodfish should be included in this ban. This would only include the public beach – not the ORV section of Sandy Neck.

After a discussion amongst the Board Members, the following **motion** was made by Pete Sampou, seconded by Barbara Bell and unanimously voted on by the Sandy Neck Board:

*After discussion at their regularly scheduled December 08, 2008 meeting, The Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to recommend a public no smoking ban to the Town Manager with the following stipulations:*

- a) *The ban will include Bodfish Beach, between the lifeguard protection area signs, and associated parking lots (so called upper lot and lower lot).*
- b) *The ban will be in effect annually from May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- c) *The ban will be monitored by Sandy Neck staff.*
- d) *The Town will provide designated smoking areas within the parking lot. These areas will be clearly marked with the appropriate signage and cigarette receptacles will be provided.*

*This ban DOES NOT include the off road vehicle section of Sandy Neck.*

◆ **Review Annual Sandy Neck Report:**

*Nina Coleman addressed the Board:*

The Board received a copy of the letter sent to the Conservation Commission highlighting the plover, tern and diamondback terrapin activity during this past season. Also included was a report entitled “2008 Sandy Neck Report” (attached). Nina Coleman reviewed this information with the Board.

**Overview:**

- Piping Plovers.....43 chicks fledges
- Diamondback Terrapins.....57 potentially hatched nests (best ever)
- Enforcement.....about the same as last year
- Revenue.....up from last year
- ORV permits .....up from last year
- Over the winter she will talk to Police Chief McDonald regarding safety and the number of vehicles/people that could/should be on the beach.
- Bodfish Beach parking.....more than last year and this year 522 “turn aways”

◆ **Regulations:**

*Nina Coleman addressed the Board:*

At the November Sandy Neck Meeting there was a discussion about Section G in the regulations regarding the addition “stay on marked trails”. The Board asked Nina Coleman to work on a language change and bring it back to the Board. Her recommendation is:

*No person shall traffic (or allow any pet to traffic) in any posted area. All persons shall **stay on marked trails and keep off all vegetation, dune faces, steeply sloped dunes, foredunes, and primary dunes. People who are hunting, berry collecting, involved in professionally lead educational hikes and/or scientific studies are permitted off the marked trail. All other activities require prior approval by the Park Manager.***

Some Board Members still did not agree with this change. The discussion was tabled until next month. Board Members will work on alternate language and email their suggestions to Nina Coleman prior to the next meeting and she will review this and bring back their suggestions to the Board at the January meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Other Business:**

The Board requested Dr. Jonathan Way [Barnstable High School Teacher & Researcher of Eastern Coyotes] be invited to the January 12, 2009 meeting and report on his summer activity

**Adjournment:**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem