



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting September 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 September 08, 2008 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: George Muhlebach, Barbara Bell, Rich French, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, and Lynn Heslinga.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Public: Wendy Bowles, Doug Moquin, Jill Buck, and Henry Diener.

Other Business:

- Rich French introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Sandy Neck Board – Lynn Heslinga.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Barbara Bell, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the August minutes as printed. Pete Sampou abstained from voting because he was not at that meeting. Lynn Heslinga abstained from voting because she was not yet on the board.

Correspondence:

- None

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman:

- Waiting for one tern to fledge. It was not seen today & if not seen tomorrow – the beach can open.
- Labor Day was a challenge this year. Had to close the beach (at 10:30 am) because of the high tide, little beach, and north wind. Safety issue. Opened up approx. 3-4 hours later. Turned away many cars (over 300 vehicles). Plus, extremely under staffed. Yes, they did do escorts.
 - ◆ Hank Farnham suggested “borrowing staff” from Recreation Dept. Nina Coleman reported that they are also understaffed this time of year.
 - ◆ Rich French suggested looking to volunteers for the gatehouse and/or the Board could volunteer if this happens again. Over the winter, they should look further at the idea of using volunteers.
- Nina Coleman also reported there were many problems this year with alcohol and it was not with under-aged drinking. This was adults – heavy drinking. Issue will have to be discussed/reviewed before next season.
- Gatehouse hours are now Sunday to Thursday (9 am to 5 pm). Friday & Saturday (9 am to 9 pm).
- CoastSweep 2008 is September 20th starting at 9:30 am. Wear your “Sandy Neck Board T-Shirt”.
- At the last meeting, a member of the public was confused about the gatehouse hours. Nina Coleman called the lady and the matter is cleared up.

Old Business:

◆ Bathhouse Update

Rich French: In August, staff went to Westborough, MA [Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)] to talk with them about spadefoot toads and the placement/potential locations of the new bathhouse. He has not had good feedback – but hopeful. The town has spent \$150,000 so far and still they do not have permission. In the meantime, the [present] bathhouse will need repairs.

Bill Carey: Also, discouraged with the [lack of] progress.

Nina Coleman: Does not feel the town will be allowed to expand the footprint. Any work would have to be on the current footprint - no expansion allowed. Plus, people are always complaining about the condition of the bathhouse.

Rich French: Until we are granted permission there is no reason to talk to our state representatives. We have no final plans. We need a “yes” or “no” before we can go any further.

Nina Coleman: Important issue is that we have lost 70 parking spaces since 1978. We told the state that the proposed plan brought back 60 (+/-). They still said “no” because no one made an application to get them back after each storm prior to this time.

Rich French: It is very frustrating. We will continue to keep the board updated.

◆ Barnstable Dredge Project:

Rich French: August 21st, Town Council approved \$419,250 for the Barnstable Dredge Project. The work is scheduled to start in November. Does not know how long it will take to complete.

Rich French: Also, 1500 yards of soil may be brought to Sandy Neck from the Steamship Authority in Hyannis. This fill could be used for the area of the beach adjacent to the parking lot.

Pete Sampou: Make sure it is reviewed by a soil expert.

Nina Coleman: Checking to make sure the current SN permit will allow this and making sure the soil is compatible.

◆ Meeting with Cottage Colony Update:

Rich French: Met with the cottage colony. Councilor Canedy was also present. At this meeting, there was a discussion about the marsh trail. They presented concerns between trail 2 – 4 and are working on a list of concerns from trail 4 to the colony itself. They also discussed the possibility of using the horse trail for vehicles. Waiting for final draft.

Pete Sampou: In his opinion, ConComm will not approve the use of the horse trail for vehicular use. There are 3 or 4 wetlands. See attached pictures.

Nina Coleman: This is spadefoot toad habitat.

◆ Budget Items:

Rich French: He would like to see the town approve the proposed full time Sandy Neck Natural Resource Office position.

Nina Coleman: Reminded the board that if they want “anything new” they will have to bring in the additional revenue and the only way to do that is by raising the cost of the stickers.

Rich French: Wondering if there was a way to relocate any funds? Everything is revenue driven.

Nina Coleman: Will email the budget – income and expenses – to all Board Members before the next meeting. She will also send all the fee schedules.

Bill Carey: Would also like to look at Marsh Trail repairs. Materials? Labor? Standards? Goals?

Pete Sampou: Remember, this is “Nina Coleman’s budget” and the board is only advisory.

Hank Farnhan: Should the Town be looking at the terms of the leases for the cottage colony?

Nina Coleman: The leases are good until 2011 and can not renegotiated before then.

◆ Educational Information / Interpretive Walks:

Bill Carey: Was not aware of all the educational guided tours conducted by Nina Coleman. He thanked her for all her work at Sandy Neck.

◆ Beach Chair:

Nina Coleman: The handicapped wheelchair was “found” in Bourne. It has been returned so now there are two. One for the ORV beach and one for Bodfish.

New Business:

◆ Website:

Rich French: Would like to see a website dedicated to Sandy Neck. This is in addition to the Town’s web site.

Looking to see if someone wants to undertake this project. Need to talk to the Town’s Information Technology Dept. - Dan Wood. This would be a big undertaking to keep it properly updated and informational. It does cost money.

Public Comment:

Doug Moquin: Can you report on Scott Melvin's visit to Sandy Neck?

Nina Coleman: He was there looking for possible solutions for the Section 10/Conservation Management Plan. The big issue is terns. The mitigation for piping plovers is not the same for terns. The Town is trying to keep a good working relationship with the State. Looking for new ideas because current ones are very costly. Maybe address just the terns not the plovers. It is a work in progress.

Doug Moquin: What is the difference between using the marsh trail and the horse trail for vehicles?

Nina Coleman: Vehicle use is not permitted on the Horse Trail.

Rich French: The use of the horse trail for vehicles by the cottage colony was already discussed by the "Go-around Committee" – they may revisit it this winter.

Jill Buck: Also asked about the use of the horse trail for vehicles.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem