



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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## Sandy Neck Board Meeting June 08, 2009

### Chairman:

Richards French

### Vice Chairman:

William Carey

### Board Members:

Barbara Bell  
Lynn Heslinga  
Nate King  
George Muhlebach  
Peter Sampou

### Council Liaisons:

Henry Farnham  
Ann Canedy

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 8, 2009 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Rich French.

### **Roll Call:**

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, Bill Carey, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Guest Speaker: Chief Paul MacDonald.
- Public: Wendy Bowles and Patrick Paquette.

### **Guest Speaker:**

*Barnstable Police Chief Paul MacDonald addressed the Board.*

Overview:

- ❖ This summer there will be a police presence at Sandy Neck but due to budget constraints the amount of time per visit and the number of officers on site will be less. The plan is that the officer assigned to West Barnstable will patrol down the beach. These are predetermined calls at sporadic times. They did it last weekend and it worked out well. The police officer drove the marked cruiser down the beach and with an NRO riding along.
- ❖ Drinking is a great concern and abuse will not be tolerated. Zero tolerance policy.
- ❖ Regarding speeding on Sandy Neck Road – part of the road is in Sandwich and he will talk to the Sandwich Police Chief. During the summer, Chief MacDonald will put the speed trailer out on Fridays on the town portion of the road.
- ❖ A police Chevy Tahoe [marked unit] is parked at the gatehouse – highly visible – ready to go out on the beach.
- ❖ And as always – if there is a problem – call the police.

### **Act on Minutes:**

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

### **Correspondence:**

At last month's meeting there was a discussion regarding ORV stickers and dealer plates. The Board sent a letter to the Town Attorney asking if the Town can continue to restrict the sale of ORV permits to owners of vehicles with dealer plates. The Town Attorney answered that the Town does in fact have the right to control access to Sandy Neck and further that the ban on issuing to farm, repair, and dealer plates is valid and enforceable. (Both letters are on file).

*A motion was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Barbara Bell directing Rich French to write a letter to Joseph Costa telling him that based on the Board's discussions and an opinion from the Town Attorney, the Sandy Neck Regulations will continue to restrict the sale of ORV permits to dealer, farm and repair plates. Motion passed unanimously.*

## **Staff Report:**

### ***Nina Coleman addressed the Board:***

- Sandy Neck is fully staffed around the clock. The gatehouse is selling permits from 8 am to 9 pm daily.
- Admission to the beach is allowed from 8 am to 9 pm.
- From 9 pm to 8 am – no one can go onto the beach, with the exception of campers, fishermen and property owners.
- Budget was approved last week by Town Council. Little change from last year.
- The web page is up and running at [www.sandyneckbeachpark.com](http://www.sandyneckbeachpark.com). Still looking for more pictures.
- Alcohol issue – very firm this year. Zero tolerance for abuse. Staff has been trained and citations have already been written. Hope this added enforcement, plus the information sent along with each sticker renewal, will help to make Sandy Neck a family oriented enjoyable place this summer.
- Recently had the child's wheelchair donation ceremony. Now have three beach wheelchairs available for public use.
- There are currently 22 pairs of plovers. This number is down from other years but expect more in coming weeks. The closest nest is 1.6 miles down which is right after trail 2.
- There are a large number of terns this year and anticipating closures just past trail 2.
- Right now lots of open beach. But as always – this could change any day.

## **Old Business:**

*As background: Ian Ives, Director Mass Audubon, discussed his spadefoot toad scientific research project with the Board on March 9, 2009. On April 13, 2009, the Board received updated information including an outline of the proposed study on spadefoot habitat use, tadpole survivorship and density. The Board asked Mr. Ives to return tonight to explain and review the information received at their last meeting.*

### ***Ian Ives, addressed the Board:***

Overview:

- ❖ He went out to Sandy Neck in April during heavy, heavy rainy nights. He could hear lots of activity from up to ½ mile away. He went to trail 5 and could hear [lots of] males “calling” the females and he was able to document the coordinates using an older map and his current information. His objective (this year) was to learn about the toad's habitat & location and their habits on site. Next year, he would like to try a head start program with the tadpoles on site and see their progress. He would also like to head start the eggs off site in the Ashumet Holly Reserve in Falmouth where there used to be a population of spadefoot toads but they have not seen any in many years. They want to reclaim them there since Audubon owns that property.
- ❖ Right now he is “scouting”. He is not increasing the movement of the species. He is not promoting the toads. This is just a learning experiment. The toads live in the woody area and breed in the vernal pools but do not move very much; staying put for the most part. The toads stay in the interior of the beach/dune area – not the front beach. This year, the puddles did not last long enough for the breeding to be successful – the puddles dried up before the breeding process was complete –which is one of the problems. Many eggs but few develop. It only takes a couple of weeks to go from egg to tadpole but less than 1% makes it to adulthood. Other factors are temperature and lack of food.
- ❖ Mr. Ives is done for this year since the breeding period is over and that is the only time the toads are out and able to be studied.
- ❖ He has some pictures of the spadefoot toads he saw at Sandy Neck and can send them to the Board, plus documentation if Nina would like the information. He can give her the coordinates and she can put the sites into her GPS and note the areas on her maps. His permit requires him to note all locations and he will “copy” Nina with his information. This will be helpful – proactive information for Sandy Neck so everyone will know the exact locations of the toads and not “guess”.
- ❖ The spadefoot toad species is state listed as “threatened” not “endangered”.

***Rich French suggested, at a later date, the Board may want a workshop on managing Sandy Neck and the spadefoot toad population simultaneously to the benefit of all beach users.***

**New Business:*****Rich French:***

The Halfway House at Sandy Neck is almost 100% complete. Invitations will be sent out to those who helped with this restoration project. An open house will be held on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem