



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting March 09, 2009

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 March 09, 2009 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: Barbara Bell, Bill Carey, Pete Sampou, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Patrick Paquette, and Wendy Bowles.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Pete Sampou and seconded by Barbara Bell, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the February minutes. George Muhlebach *abstained from voting because he was not at that meeting.*

Correspondence:

Rich French read a letter from the Mass Beach Buggy Assoc. (MBBA). They have set aside the date of Sunday April 26th for their Sandy Neck Beach Conservation Project. This will coincide with the town's annual "spring beach clean-up day" on Sandy Neck from 9:30 am to noon. As in previous years, a letter will go out to the cottage colony, the local scouts and others. The information will also be on the Town's web site. Nina Coleman will work on a burn permit for the day

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The 2009 [renewal] applications were mailed out. The gatehouse will open every day starting on April 1st.
- As required, the public hearing was held regarding the Sandy Neck Regulations. All set. They will be sent to the Town Manager for his approval and signature. [They were reviewed at the SN meetings of November 10, 2008 and December 8, 2008 and approved by Board at their January 12, 2009 meeting.]
- Nina Coleman passed out an outline for the new proposed Sandy Neck webpage. The domain will be www.SandyNeckBeachPark.com. (see attached). This is the basic information and later it will be expanded. The town website will also link you to this site. It will include FAQ and many links for general and specific information. Some other topics (not on this outline) to be included are the mission statement, fishing & hunting & shellfishing information, ongoing research, and how to make a charitable donation. If the Board wants anything else included – please email Nina with your ideas or suggestions. The site should be up and running by this spring.

Old Business

◆ **Marsh Trail Repair update:**

Nina Coleman: The work started February 17th. Bad weather slowed down the work. The material is in the parking lot and they are ready to go – just waiting for better weather.

New Business:

Ian Ives, Director Mass Audubon, addressed the Board regarding his application for scientific research. The proposal is an attempt to create new breeding populations of the eastern spadefoot toad. (see attached application/proposal).

Overview:

- ❖ The spadefoot toad is the rarest frog species in MA. It is a threatened species.
- ❖ There is a small population of these toads in E. Falmouth (1 or 2) and he is looking to add Sandy Neck as a breeding site. They live under ground and are hard to find.
- ❖ This is a head start program to help supplement the population. Long term project.
- ❖ First year would collect data only. Very little information out there. Never been done in MA before. They may never actually “see” a spadefoot toad. Would like to start the preliminary work this spring. Project is only in the early stages – money needed.
- ❖ New England Heritage is on board with this proposal. Franklin Zoo would host the head start program.
- ❖ He will keep the Board apprised of his research.
- ❖ There are plenty of vernal pools and wetlands not near the gatehouse/parking lots so there should not be an issue as to where they are located and/or placed.
- ❖ Mr. Ives needs a Special Permit to do this research and Nina Coleman can put in the permit language requiring Mr. Ives to return to the Board with his findings at the end of the season. He will also report to her regularly throughout this project.

*After the presentation and a discussion between the Mr. Ives and the Board, a **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Barbara Bell to support the research request of the spadefoot toads and their breeding habitats by Ian Ives, Mass Audubon. Motion passed unanimously.*

New Business:

◆ **Sandy Neck Beach Management Policies:**

Nina Coleman: Passed out proposed changes to the policies. Changes in red.....**SEE ATTACHED**

*After a discussion by the Board, a **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Lynn Hesligna to accept the Sandy Neck Beach Management Policies with the suggested corrections. Motion passed unanimously*

Public Comment:

Wendy Bowles: Thinks the website is an awesome idea and will ask MBBA to provide the link on their home page when the site is up and running. She will also put the information in their newsletter.

Patrick Paquette: Asked if money was gained from a project conducted at Sandy Neck, could the Board ask for a portion of those profits. And, he hopes the Board gets all the information needed before they vote on research projects so nothing bad happens to the beach as a result of the research

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

Sandy Neck Beach Management Policies

Adopted by the Sandy Neck Board on February 7, 2005 ; Revised March 9, 2009

Proposed changes in red.

Section 1: Sandy Neck Fees

Sandy Neck user fees are at set rates depending on residency status. Residency must be proven per the Sandy Neck Regulations and Sandy Neck Policies.

Section 2: No Refund Policy

It is the Sandy Neck Beach Policy that no refunds will be granted. Included, but not limited, in this policy are personal emergencies, foul weather, evacuations, limitations on access, beach conditions, insects (greenhead flies, etc.) and water temperature.

The No Refund Policy pertains to any and all patrons that make use of any Sandy Neck Beach or Gatehouse facilities. All public beach users, Off Road Vehicle (ORV) day trippers, sticker purchasers, overnight camping and chase vehicles are subject to this policy and must comply accordingly.

Section 3: Parking Lot Policies

3:1 Dogs

Dogs are prohibited from all Barnstable public beaches (Town of Barnstable General Ordinances Chapter 3, Article 46, Section 7 of the Dog Control Regulations) from May 15 to September 15. Dogs are not allowed past the Gatehouse **between May 15 to September 15** unless they are contained within a permitted vehicle that is traveling to the Off Road Vehicle beach.

Dogs are allowed on Sandy Neck hiking trails and the ORV beach during these dates, as long as they remain on a leash.

3:2 Drive-Thru(s) and Drop Offs

Parking lot business hours are from 8 AM-**3:30 PM** Memorial Day through Labor Day (exception: from Memorial Day to approximately the third weekend in June, parking lot business hours are only on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays).

All vehicles traveling to the public beach during business hours must have a Sandwich or Barnstable Beach Parking Sticker or a valid Barnstable Public Beach Day, Weekly or Landlord Pass.

Vehicles without one of the above attributes are not permitted to travel to the parking lot. This includes any dropping off of vehicle occupants or participation in any activity that does not involve parking.

3:3 Full Parking Lot

Per requirements of the Sandy Neck Board, **only five vehicles are permitted to wait in line once the parking lot is full.** This is mandatory procedure because of the need to keep the road clear for off-road and cottage owner vehicle access and to allow emergency personnel to get to the beach unimpeded.

The lot will re-open once five spaces become available **and the five vehicles in line can fill the vacant spaces. The next five vehicles that arrive at the Gatehouse are then eligible to wait in line.**

The Gate Attendant Supervisor or the Park Manager, for safety purposes, may deem that it is necessary for the parking lot to remain closed.

When the parking lot is full, no vehicles are permitted to travel to the parking lot for dropping off occupants, even if the vehicle has a Sandwich or Barnstable Beach Parking Sticker or a valid Barnstable Public Beach Day or Weekly Pass.

Section 4: Proof of Residency

Sandy Neck provides discounted Off Road Vehicle Stickers to residents and/or property taxpayers of Sandwich and Barnstable. Proof of residency is defined in the regulations as:

Proof of residency is required in order to obtain a Barnstable or Sandwich ORV sticker. Residency can be proven by:

- 1. Tax bill,*
- 2. Minimum one year property lease,*
- 3. Vehicle registration with a street address (PO Box is not sufficient),*
- 4. Other legal documents such as a deed or will (this does not include utility bills, excise tax bills, etc.).*
- 5. College students may provide a tuition bill with a Barnstable or Sandwich address.*

Barnstable and Sandwich residents wishing to obtain an ORV sticker must have their vehicle registered in their name (or the name of a person residing at the same address) unless:

- 1. They have written permission to use a company vehicle.*
- 2. Proof of ownership of the company on the vehicle registration.*
- 3. A minimum one year vehicle lease agreement.*

To clarify, the resident/taxpayer must be the applicant. The vehicle must be (1) in the resident/taxpayer's name (2) in the name of a person at the same address or (3) in the name of the company that the resident/taxpayer owns or works for (with written proof).

Section 5: Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permits

Barnstable General Ordinances Chapter 3, Article 26, Section 02 requires that all over sand vehicles on Sandy Neck must have a current ORV permit. Only official vehicles (as determined by the Park Manager) are exempt from this requirement.

Section 6: Property Owner Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permits

6:1 Eligibility

Property Owner ORV permits will be issued to Sandy Neck property owners, Sandy Neck property lessees (minimum one year lease) and immediate members of their family. Immediate family members include father, mother, sister, brother, husband, wife, son and daughter.

6:2 Proof of Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the applicant to prove ownership or lessee status. Immediate family relationships can be proven by a legal document such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate or notarized letter.

6:3 Property Owner ORV permit privileges

The Property Owner ORV permit affords access (via open Sandy Neck trails) to the applicable cottage only. It also allows vehicle use of the front beach (open sections only) for recreational purposes and use of the air compressor. In addition, the cottage owner may use the Sandy Neck dumpster to discard ORV and household trash. Dumping of construction debris, hazardous waste, discarded equipment, or any other items that are not ORV or household trash is strictly forbidden and will result in fines.

6:4 Guests of Property Owners

Property owner guests are always welcome to park at the Sandy Neck Gatehouse during visits. If the guest intends on driving to a cottage, he/she must purchase the appropriate Sandy Neck Non-resident, Barnstable or Sandwich ORV permit. Sandy Neck staff will issue a trail pass only after the Cottage Owner has alerted the Gatehouse that a particular individual can access their cottage.