



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

1189 Phinney's Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

Tel: 508-790-6272
Fax: 508-790-6275

Sandy Neck Board Meeting March 8, 2010

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 March 8, 2010 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, Nate King, Bill Carey, Lynn Heslinga, George Muhlebach, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham and Ann Canedy
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Wendy Bowles and Chris Greim.

Act on Minutes:

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

Correspondence:

- A letter was sent to the Sandy Neck Board inviting them to attend the Ninth Annual State of the Town Address by Town Manager John Klimm on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Barnstable High School Knight Auditorium. Five members (not counting Rich French) to attend.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The current ORV stickers are valid until April 15th. Renewal applications (for 2010 permits) were mailed out March 1st. Preview week is March 15th – 19th. The gatehouse will reopen [daily] for the season on April 1st.
- A letter was sent to the cottage owners requesting they submit a list of guests permitted to go to their cottages on a regular basis. This will allow the gatehouse to write them a trail pass without having to call the owner each time they come.
- The Jeep Club will be helping with fencing on March 20th.
- Beach clean-up will be April 25th this year (debris pick up and dune fencing installment).
- Seasonal employment opportunities are listed on the Town's website:
<http://town.barnstable.ma.us/HumanResources/employment.asp>
- Beach erosion.
 - It was a tough winter. It looks like a few areas may be pinched off at high tide. The access trail is not good but there is plenty of land still available. This is not good plover habitat so that will make it interesting this summer. It appears the beach will be open this summer except for very high tides. Must "go with it." Good news is Sandy Neck did not get the terrible erosions that some of the outer Cape beaches received. The beach should level out on its own over time as the spring and summer tides bring in sandy to build up the beach.

Old Business:

Marsh Trail Improvement Update

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- Marsh trail work stated today. The areas to be improved were marked with orange tape.
- They will patch between trail 2 & trail 4 then go on to the area between trail 4 & trail 5.

Bathhouse Update:

Rich French addressed the Board:

- Two meetings were held for the public. Overall favorable comments. Very positive. Only a few minor concerns and some misunderstandings.
- On March 2nd Rich French and Nina Coleman went before ConComm. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) must submit their comments before ConComm can give their approval and as of the night of the meeting NHESP had not yet done that. The next local meeting is on March 16th and hopefully we will have received a favorable report by then. This review by the state is mandatory.
- The next step is Old Kings Highway but not until ConComm approval.
- Still on track for the construction to begin after Labor Day 2010.

Breach Update

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- Highway was able to repair the breach at the Lovell Cottage.
- Two repairs completed.

Other Business:

Nate King addressed the Board and spoke about Taisto Ranta:

- Taisto Ranta was a natural resource officer, chief ranger and later Director of Natural Resources. When he retired, he became a member of the Sandy Neck Board. He had a love and dedication to Sandy Neck. Mr. Ranta died in December, and Nate thought it would be nice if the Board could somehow acknowledge all his accomplishments.
- Barbara Bell and Nate King volunteered to form a subcommittee to determine a fitting way to honor him.
- Of note: the W.B.Historic Society will feature his accomplishments on March 25th @ 7 pm at the Fire Station.

New Business:

Sandy Neck Beach Park Management Policies

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

New Sections/Changes:

- **Dog:** Dogs are allowed on Sandy Neck hiking trails during these dates, as long as they remain on a leash or under direct voice control of the owner or keeper as stated in the Sandy Neck Beach Park Regulations. An owner or keeper who does not have voice control over their unleashed dog is subject to fines/and or removal from the park. The decision as to whether or not an owner or keeper has voice control over their unleashed dog will be determined at the discretion of the Park Manager and Natural Resource Officers, and made in the interest of public safety and preserving the integrity of Sandy Neck as a natural resource. All dogs on the ORV corridor must be leashed unless in Cape Cod Bay.
- **Section 6:** User Conduct. All users of Sandy Neck Beach Park are expected to behave in a civil and responsible manner. Verbal abuse and/or aggressive behavior toward Sandy Neck Staff or other beach patrons will result in the violator's removal from the beach for not less than 24 hours. In addition, violators may have their ORV stickers revoked, incur fines for obscene language in accordance with Town of Barnstable General Ordinances §147-1 and/or be issued trespass orders. Complaints concerning policies, regulations, and/or Sandy Neck staff conduct may be made to the Park Manager or Senior Natural Resource Officer.
- **Guests of Property Owners Property** Strike out the sentence: ~~Property owner guests are always welcome to park at the Sandy Neck Gatehouse during visits~~

There was a discussion about cottage guest parking. Currently, they are allowed to park for free at the Gatehouse or at the public beach for extended periods of time. However there are no longer enough spaces to allow that to continue. If the cars have a Barnstable or Sandwich beach sticker, they can park in the upper lot. But if they do not they will now be charged – just like everyone else – for those spaces. The Board felt this policy change was not only a way to recoup lost revenue but also a fair utilization of the limited parking spaces for everyone. The Board stressed car pooling from municipal lots might be another option. Purchasing a \$40 weekly pass would also work. The cottage owners will be notified in writing of this decision.

The following **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King :

The Sandy Neck Board supports the Park Manager's recommended changes regarding parking spaces. Specifically, cottage owner's guests without a Town of Barnstable Parking Sticker or a Town of Sandwich Parking Sticker will be allowed to park their vehicles overnight in the upper parking lot provided the appropriate fees are paid for their entire stay. This would apply only during prime "in-season" for parts of May and June thru September.

Motion passed unanimously.

The following **motion** was made by Nate King and seconded by Pete Sampou:

The Sandy Neck Board supports the recommended changes to the Sandy Neck Beach Park Management Policies dated February 7, 2005, latest revision March 8, 2010, as presented by the Park Manager, and as discussed and amended tonight.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- *Wendy Bowles* asked for clarification about dogs on the beach especially at the point. *Nina Coleman* again stated that all dogs must be on a leach at all times on the beach. It is clearly marked that no dogs are allowed off leach on Sandy Neck and this summer additional staff will be on duty to enforce that provision. There is signage stating dogs may not be off leach.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem