

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 October 20, 2014

Chairman:
Richards French

Vice Chairman:
Thomas O'Neill

Board Members:
William Carey
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:
Ann Canedy
Phil Wallace

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on October 20, 2014 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Lynn Heslinga, Nate King, George Muhlebach, Pete Sampou, Tom O'Neill and Rich French.
- Board Members absent: Bill Carey.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager; and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaisons present: none
- Council Liaisons absent: Ann Canedy and Phil Wallace.
- Public: Skip Crone, Paul Connors, Judi Connors, Diane Hill, Marie Thomas, Peter Thomas, Wendy Paquette, Diane Lomba, Kylie Palomba, Robert Lovell, and two others (who did not sign in).

Act on Minutes:

- On a motion by Lynne Heslinga and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the September minutes as printed.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Valerie Uguccioni (See attachment #1).

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The Gatehouse hours are Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm and Friday - Saturday 9:00am to 6:00pm. Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm. Park Entrance is under the winter hours which are daily 8:00am to 6:00pm. You must be past the gatehouse by 6:00pm to stay on the beach until 8:00pm (unless you are actively fishing). You still need an ORV sticker, but there is no charge for overnight camping.
- There is now an active hunting season for pheasants, rabbits and ducks. There is no hunting allowed on the front beach and there is no hunting on Sundays.
- CoastSweep was held in September and was very successful.
- There were two groups that recently used the Halfway House for educational purposes.
- Nina Coleman held a hike called "The Hunt for Red October". They searched the dunes (off trail) looking for freshwater cranberries. Good year for cranberries.
- Terrapin hatchlings were successful again this year. She has applied for a grant to help pay for the some of the program. MET grant money comes from Cape and Island license plate money.
- Incident reports since last month: one for someone who fell off their horse, one search and rescue, and one alleged theft of a cell phone.

New Business:

Thatcher Drake – Eagle Scout Project

Thatcher Drake addressed the Board. He is a 17 year old who will be starting on his Eagle Scout soon. There is an old foundation (from the Winder Cottage) that is still intact. He would like to build an Adirondack type shelter (8x12) with 3 walls and the one open side would face the marsh on that footprint. (See locus pictures attachment #2.) It could be used by hikers as a safe place to stay at night and used in rain/cold weather. Plus this would allow for shade while hiking in summer. It would not impact the environment because the area is already cleared. He would like to complete this project by early May 2015. Once his plans are drawn, Nina Coleman will start the permitting process. The Board was in support of this project.

New Business:

Street lights at Sandy Neck – converting to private ownership

Rich French explained that there are three street lights at Sandy Neck - one at the gatehouse and two at the air station. The county - through Cape Light Compact - has suggested that the lights be changed to LED lights. Currently, the lights are leased from NSTAR. Sandy Neck owns the poles which were installed with the bathhouse construction project. They installed new poles with new wiring. He is suggesting Sandy Neck buy the lights (for a nominal fee ~\$1) and have them retrofitted with LED lights since Cape Light Compact will do it for free. Bonus is the monthly cost for the electricity will be drop considerably, these new lights will focus/shine downward, and these lights are whitish not the orange glow from the sodium bulbs. The conversion program ends December 1st. The lights are guaranteed for 10 years.

On a motion by Nate King and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board unanimously voted to support the proposal presented to purchase the street lights from NSTAR and, once done, convert them to LED lights.

Old Business:

Continuation of fee discussion

Rich French reviewed the new proposed fee schedule (See attachment #3) He reiterated that the Board has stated they did not want a one-time big fee increase but rather wanted it to be a gradual increase over three years.

Last month, the Board voted in favor of these fee changes:

Annual Sticker

Resident: 2014.....\$85.00 (no changes proposed)
Sandwich: 2014.....\$145.00 (proposed change below in red)
Non Resident: 2014.....\$160.00 (proposed change below in red)

Sandwich/Non-Resident: 2015.....\$170.00 (proposed)

Seasonal Stickers: (Sold after Labor Day)

Resident: 2014.....\$25.00 (no change proposed)
Sandwich: 2014.....\$35.00 (see change below in red)

Sandwich/Non Resident 2015.....\$50.00 (no change in fee for Non-Resident. Proposed increase for Sandwich resident)

Cottage Owner 2014.....\$10.00 (no change proposed)

The UPDATED proposed overnight fees:

Overnight Camp

Resident: 2014.....\$8.00 per night
2015.....\$10.00 (proposed)

Sandwich & Non Resident:
2014.....\$16.00 per night
2015.....\$20.00 (proposed)

All Chase Vehicles:
2014.....\$8.00 per night
2015.....\$5.00 (proposed)

Tent Camping:
2014.....\$20 per night (no change proposed)

Dune Tour (proposed)
2015.....\$75.00 per person

Nina Coleman addressed the Board and stated she was changing the overnight fee for Chase Vehicles to \$5 which would reduce the fee by \$3 per night (\$8 down to \$5). She also reviewed the Comparison Sheet. (Attachment #4) which averages about \$49/night. And reviewed the 2014 ORV sheet (Attachment #5).

There was a discussion among the Board Members. These are some highlights:

- Still a good deal.
- The dune stabilization project is \$90,000 this year and approximately \$365,000 next year which comes out of surplus. Need to rebuild surplus. Engineering money already secured. Applied for grant money.
- Additional money needed for more staff.
- The upper parking lot has the septic system. Must plan ahead to make sure do not lose more sand & parking lot.
- Can Bodfish fees be increased? [REC controls those fees not MEA]. Sandy Neck gets a “weighed portion” from REC and could that portion be increased? [Nina Coleman stated it is under review.]
- Can an additional sticker fee be charged for the use of Sandy Neck – an upcharge when you buy your town beach sticker? Can there be a fee and that money go to dune stabilization?

The public commented on these proposed changes:

- Peter Thomas asked what the fee increases are for? Is there a deficit to justify this increase? Why isn't it spread across all user groups and not just an increase for ORV people.
- Bob Lovell said be careful you do not price out the ORV users. Why not the increase the fee to the daytrippers?
- Wendy Paquette felt that you could not compare Sandy Neck fees with other campgrounds because you do not have water, electric or dump stations. Other towns have one fee only – no overnight camping fees.
Nina Coleman clarified that the fees for chase vehicles were going down so it would be less - not more - per night. The overnight fees would be \$10 (resident) \$20 (non resident) and \$5 (chase) and it would generate approximately \$10,000 next year. That money would be used for more staff. And staff is utilized by all users.
- Peter Thomas asked if there could be a daily charge for day trippers.
Nina Coleman stated that she could not handle a daily fee. She does not have the staff. If needed, the sticker price would increase rather than a daily fee. That will be looked at in the future.
- Brewster Brown why is it difficult to charge day trippers?
Nina Coleman stated that she could not handle stopping each car and collecting a fee and processing it. It would be too cumbersome. Last time there were daily fees, cars would line up down the street. There were emergency response issues. The day tripper might be charged more next time we do fee increases but it would be an increase in the sticker price itself which in turn offsets not being charged each time.

The Board Members continued their discussion. These are some highlights:

- Full support of increasing \$10 (resident) \$20 (non resident) and \$5 (chase).
- The recommendation for a separate sticker for resident day tripper use should be pursued.
- We need a fee structure for all fee sticker increase by all users. A certain percentage increase across the board. Are we spending too much time on details? We need money to run the beach.

The Chairman allowed more public comment:

- Judi Conners asked again why day trippers are not charged a daily fee.
- Skip Crone said that chase vehicles only have 6 more hours on the beach than day trippers but chase vehicles have to pay to stay overnight.

A **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Tom O'Neill to except the fee changes (as modified by Sandy Neck Park Manager Nina Coleman and presented tonight) entitled ***Proposed Sandy Neck Fees for 2015 (draft 10/14/14)***. **Vote:** All voted yes except Nate King who abstained.

A **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King requesting staff investigate the potential for increasing the current percentage and amount of money Sandy Neck receives from the Town Recreation Program (REC) from the sale of the Town beach/parking sticker; currently the resident sticker is \$35. This is in light of the enormous expenses associated with Sandy Neck's sand restoration project that must be undertaken to protect the parking lot. **Vote:** All yes.

A **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King requesting staff investigate an additional sticker for day trippers only who utilize the ORV beach but do not stay overnight and do not buy overnight hang tags. And in addition, request staff investigate potential revenue that could be generated by collecting a surcharge for using the beach that would be used for beach replenishment only. This fee must include associated costs. **Vote:** All yes.

A **motion** was made by George Muhlebach and seconded by Pete Sampou to ask the Town Recreational Department to increase the Town beach/parking stickers; currently they are \$35. **Vote:** All yes.

A **motion** was made by Nate King and seconded by Pete Sampou to ask for \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to be used for the beach restoration project at Sandy Neck since CPC funds are used to restore and preserve historic resources such as Bodfish Park Beach at Sandy Neck. **Vote:** All yes.

Old Business:

Continuation of the Town of Sandwich fee discussion:

Nothing new to discuss at this time.

Old Business:

Update on dune nourishment project:

Nina Coleman reviewed the dune nourishment project. There is a request for \$90,000 from Sandy Neck surplus funds at Town Council on November 6th. This is a first reading – no discussion. On November 20th, there will be a discussion and a vote – if approved – there is a 30 day waiting period before the funds can be spent. The RFP will be for 4,000 cubic yards of sand, concentrating on the west side. Also there is an RFP for the design for soft scape which is Phase II. Those funds were secured last year. Engineering and permitting will start within the next year. Also, she has applied for a CZM grant for \$313,000.

Public Comment:

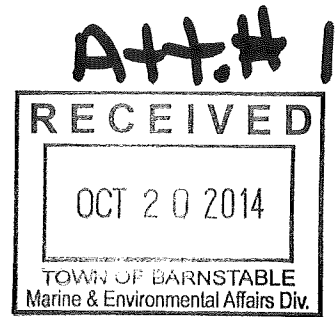
- none.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem



To: Sandy Neck Board Members

Re: Proposed increase for Camper s and Chase vehicles

Dear Members,

I have been an out of town sticker holder for 30 years both being a day tripper and camper. We are lucky to have such a beautiful place to enjoy. When told of the proposed increase for campers and chase vehicles and not the day trippers I was shocked. The wear and tear of the beach is equally if not more by the day trippers taking numerous trips picking up people and cruising the beach. Also the expense of porto potties some using them and some not. I can't tell you how many times we have seen day trippers urinate/defecate in public. *Campers left* picking up trash I need not say more.

I do not mind doing my part in supporting the beach and staff however I feel the burden should be shared by all. A daily fee for the day trippers would increase revenue. How about the public beach goers will they pay their part??

I love and respect the beach. It takes a lot of work and money to get that beachfront property. Most campers are middleclass. With much respect we don't get those kinds of raises.

Also the 11:00 curfew is later than any camp and leaves time for people to party and then drive home. You need more staff for that.

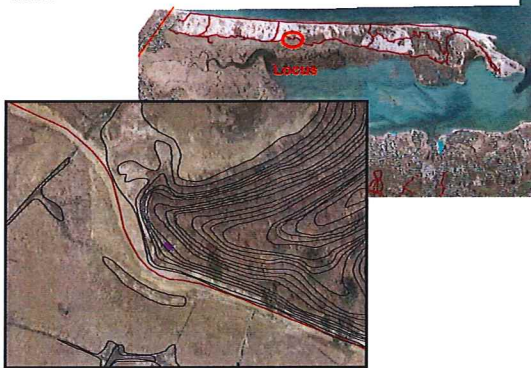
Thank you for your attention of this matter

Valerie Uguccione

Dennis, Ma

Attachment #2

128 Sandy Neck, AKA Winders Cottage, Proposed Demolition
7/24/13



Winders Cottage 7/24/13

East Side



South Side

Winders Cottage 7/24/13

North Side



west Side

Winders Cottage 2014

East Side



South Side





Town of Barnstable
Community Services Department
Marine and Environmental Affairs Division
1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville Ma. 02632

Attachment
#3

Natural Resources 508-790-6272
Harbormaster 508-790-6273
Animal Control 508-790-6274
Sandy Neck 508-790-6272
Gatehouse 508-362-8300 (April – Nov)

Daniel J. Horn, Director
Office: 508-790-6273
FAX: 508-790-6275

Proposed Sandy Neck Fees for 2015 (draft 10/14/14)

Special Permit (no changes proposed)

2014* No fee for non-profit and school groups
2014* \$30 for groups of 20-50 people
2014* \$60 for groups over 50 people
2014* \$60 for tent camper rescue fee
*At the discretion of the Park Manager

Annual Sticker

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Sandwich: 2014.....\$145.00 (proposed change below in red)
Non Resident: 2014.....\$160.00 (proposed change below in red)
Sandwich/Non-Resident: 2015.....\$170.00 (proposed)
Cottage Owner: 2014.....\$30.00 (no change proposed)
Trailer: 2014.....\$25.00 (no change proposed)

Overnight Camp

Resident: 2014.....\$8.00 per night
2015..... *...\$10.00 (proposed)*

Sandwich & Non Resident:
2014.....\$16.00 per night
2015..... *...\$20.00 (proposed)*

All Chase Vehicles:
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Resident: 2014.....\$25.00 (no change proposed)

Sandwich: 2014.....\$35.00 (see change below in red)

*Sandwich/Non Resident 2015.....\$50.00 (no change in fee for Non-Resident.
Proposed increase for Sandwich resident)*

Cottage Owner 2014.....\$10.00 (no change proposed)

Horses

2014.....\$30.00 (no change proposed)

Halfway House Use (no changes proposed)

2014.....\$100.00 day use only
2014.....\$150.00 per night

Dune Tour (proposed)

2015.....\$75.00 per person

Proposed Changes in red

Sandy Neck Beach Park

The uniqueness of Sandy Neck Beach Park “on the beach camping” cannot be overstated. This is a comparison of 2014 rates charged by like-kind campgrounds on Cape Cod. Any campgrounds allowing “on the beach camping” will be noted, otherwise the campsites will be considered close to, but not on, the beach.

Barnstable: Sandy Neck Beach Park:

Barnstable Resident: \$ 8 per night

Sandwich and Non-Resident: \$16 per night

All Chase vehicles: \$ 8 per night

Bourne: Bay View Campgrounds:

May 1st through June 27th \$45 per night

June 27th through September 1st \$58 per night

September 1st through October 15th \$45 per night **Average is \$49 per night

Buzzards Bay: Bourne Scenic Park:

\$52 per night

Brewster: Shady Knoll & Sweetwater Forest:

\$38 per night Shady Knoll

\$35 per night Sweetwater Forest

Dennis Port: Campers Heaven:

\$47 per night

East Falmouth: Cape Cod Campresort:

\$49 per night

Eastham: Atlantic Oaks Campground:

\$38 per night

North Truro: North of Highland Camping Area:

\$40 per night

Provincetown: Dunes Edge:

\$40 per night

Provincetown: Race Point:*

***On the beach: Self contained vehicles Annual \$255**

Weekly \$75

Allowed 21 camping days in total during the season

Wellfleet: Maurice's Campground:

\$40 per night

Summary: Not including Sandy Neck Beach Park or Provincetown Race Point we have compared 10 other camping areas on Cape Cod, all of which are off beach camping and the average price per night is \$42.80.

2014 ORV FEES

Town	Resident	Non-Resident	Other
Barnstable	\$85	\$160	Sandwich \$145
Chatham North Beach	\$40	N/A	N/A
Dennis	\$100	\$200	
Nauset	\$50/\$60	\$180**	NR SC ** \$250
CCNS	Annual \$150	Annual SC* \$225	Sc allowed to stay 21 days July to Labor Day
Duxbury	\$160	\$295	

*Self Contained

** On Nauset, Off road vehicle numbers are set and limited each year. Purchasing a sticker does not guarantee you will be getting on the beach. The limit of Self-Contained vehicles allowed to stay on the beach is usually reached by Friday afternoon according to the website.