



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting **February 14, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on February 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm by remote Zoom meeting.

Zoom information can be found on the Sandy Neck Agenda.

Chairman:

Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:

Peter Sampou

BoardMembers:

Ann Canedy
William Carey
William Monroe
Joe O'Brien
Maureen Piccione

CouncilLiaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

BarnstablePD

Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members remotely present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, Ann Canedy, and Joe O'Brien.

Board Members absent: Maureen Piccione.

Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.

Staff Member absent: None.

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Paul Berger, Wendy Paquette, Dawn Linnell, Terry Duenas.

Guest Speaker: None

Act on Minutes:

On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the January 10, 2022 minutes. Ann Canedy yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Pete Sampou, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- Off Road Vehicle Permit sales are going well, around 600 sold so far. Selling permits now are taking it off our plate when things are starting to heat up on the beach,
- Nina is attending the Conservation Commission hearing on February 16 via Zoom. Both of Sandy Neck's Notices of Intent (NOIs), are on the agenda. This is for two Orders of Conditions, (OOCs), for Sandy Neck. One Order of Conditions dictates how we run and manage recreational Off Road Vehicles on the beach, (ORV). It covers when the beach needs to be close, distance of the fencing, distances that need to be obtained and how we monitor the Off Road Vehicle Beach, (ORV). It is all spelled out so none of the management is arbitrary. The second Orders of Conditions is for Cottage Owners and their guests for what is known as essential vehicles. Essential vehicles have greater rights and are able to pass by endangered species. Those Orders of Conditions, (OOCs), allow for staff to escort essential vehicles past plovers and allow essential vehicles to travel the Great Marsh Trail during Diamondback Terrapin nesting season. We are essentially asking for status quo. Nina has submitted Notices of Intent, (NOIs), for these activities. Cottage Owners were included in the discussion as we moved forward with drafting our application. Cottage Owners asked Nina to note the Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU), that we had a number of years ago, which was included. Also connected the Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), with the Orders of Conditions, (OOCs). We will also have to submit the same application under a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, (MESA), to Natural Heritage as well as Endangered Species. There is a parallel evaluation of the material. Ann commented that since Nina is connecting the filings with the Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP) that should be helpful. Nina agreed as the Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), is a much more in depth document. A discussion followed.
- Curfew remains at 4 pm until May 1, 2022. Campfires are not allowed until May 1, 2022.
- We have posted some of our seasonal positions on the Town of Barnstable website. We have posted our field positions and have had some response, but not enough. If anyone knows of anyone looking for something in this field, please pass them along. As everyone is aware, housing is a big issue.
- In the past everything was done by mail and now moving to an online, more user friendly system.
- Storm damage. Material from the Barnstable Harbor Dredging has been put in the lower parking lot. The material is grey in color as it was anaerobic, (under the water). Once it is in the sun it becomes more like the rest of the material on Sandy Neck. The storm with a blow out of the north, we had moderate erosion on the front dune and minor erosion on the rest of the beach. Material will be spread on the front dune in March. Bill Carey asked if the amount of material in the parking lot is enough to replace what was lost in the last storms. Nina said that it is somewhere between 3,000 to 4,000 cubic yards of material and if there are no more big storms, it should be enough to nourish the front dune. Tom said it is new sand so it is not as packed in and solid as what was there.

Old Business: None.

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- 2. Economic sustainability.** None.
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill Monroe addressed the Board. Bill had a conversation with Kathleen Bresette from the Cottage Colony association regarding development of better communication between Cottage Owners at both the Colony and Great Marsh Trail. This communication would be regarding information that would be of interest to all property owners. Ann Canedy on behalf of who are they opening up communications. Bill said on behalf of himself as a Cottage Owner and a Board member. Tom said the charter provided for the Cottage Owners to be represented on the Board. Nina said that there was another piece as Bill owned a cottage on the Marsh Trail which is not part of the Cottage Colony and the purpose was to improve communications between the two groups. Ann said that there is a Fourth of July Cottage Colony Association meeting and also one on Labor Day. Bill Monroe said that traditionally the Marsh Trail folks have not been at these meetings. Discussion continued regarding bringing the two groups together and Board member participation. Kris Clark would like to be invited to the meetings.

New Business:

- 1. Parking lot Policy.** Section 3, (parking lot) and Section 3:1 regarding dogs on leash year round. Nina addressed the Board and explained that these regulations have been in place and the intent is to update the Policy. Donna explained that Sandy Neck has made provisions to help get dogs on the Off Road Vehicle beach, (ORV), in the hot summer so the dogs do not sustain injuries due to hot sand. Bill Carey asked some questions regarding the May 15th date for no dogs allowed past the Gatehouse in a vehicle and September 15th for dogs allowed past the Gatehouse in a vehicle. Nina responded that it is a town wide ordinance and it has to do with public beach water quality testing for all public beaches. This water quality testing pertains to where the public swims. Bill asked about high wildlife areas where there would be no dogs allowed that is also in the regulations. Nina said that there are no dogs allowed past the closure line, which moves when there are nesting shorebirds. The closure line is the start of the location where no dogs are allowed. Pete said that dogs are often a problem with the boating community, which brings their boats up on the end of Sandy Neck. Nina explained that there is fencing and signage up in that area as well as Beach Point and on the Sandy Neck west bar. Tom asked if there were any other questions and called for a vote on the policy change.

On a motion by Pete Sampou and seconded by Ann Canedy, the motion to approve the Parking Lot Policy change was put to a voice vote. Ann Canedy, yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Pete Sampou, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes. Motion carried. * Slides attached to minutes.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: Wendy Paquette addressed the Board.

If there are not dogs allowed past the closure line, how does that affect Cottage Owners with dogs? Nina responded that there is a large piece of private property at the Cottage Colony and their dogs are allowed on their private property. Sandy Neck doesn't want dogs in the plover/tern areas. Property Owners have to stay off Little Neck proper. Wendy asked about the new Off Road Vehicle, (ORV), permit expiration dates. Nina said that the 2021 permits are valid until April 15, 2022. The entire Marine Environmental Department is moving to a calendar year. By moving into a digital format, the intent is to have all permitting that is through Marine Environment Affairs Department to begin at the same time, around the 1st of the New Year. Wendy asked if there will be a seasonal permit. Nina said yes. This year the 2021 permits will expire on April 15, 2022. Starting the 2022 season, all permits will expire in January, 2023

Section 3: Parking Lot Policies

3:1 Dogs

Dogs are prohibited from all Barnstable bathing beaches (Town of Barnstable General Ordinance § 40B-C) from May 15 to September 15. Dogs are not allowed past the Gatehouse between May 15 and September 15 unless they are contained within a permitted vehicle that is traveling to the Off Road Vehicle beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Dogs are allowed on Sandy Neck hiking trails anytime of the year as long as they remain on a leash from March 1st through October 31st year round.

All dogs on the ORV corridor must be leashed unless in the waters of the Cape Cod Bay in March 1st through October 31st. In addition, areas that have high wildlife value will be marked as "No Dogs Allowed."

Section 3 policy.docx