



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting December 9, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on December 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Selectmens Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

William Carey
William Monroe
Maureen Piccione
Rene King
Rich French

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:

Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, Maureen Piccione, and Bill Monroe.

Board Members absent: Rich French, and Rene King.

Staff: Sandy Neck: Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg.

Staff Member absent: Sandy Neck Park Manager, Nina Coleman.

Council Liaisons present:

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Paul Berger.

Guest Speaker:

Act on Minutes: On a motion from Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Board, by voice and show of hands, voted to approve the November 18, 2024, minutes.

Notes from the Chair: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. Tom spoke about the conflict of interest training with Maureen and Bill Monroe. He stated he would contact as Bill Monroe said he has never received anything from the town.

Correspondence: Letter from Chair Tom O'Neill to Town Manager, Mark Ells. *See attached.

On behalf of the Board, Tom wrote a letter to the Town Manager thanking him for his support for the Sandy Neck Coastal Resiliency Project. Tom's letter also went on to speak about the Board's responsibility to identify opportunities and risks that could impact Sandy Neck. There has been a more aggressive approach to the fee structure, particularly with out of town users, driven by data showing significant increase in beach usage by out of town patrons since 2009. These changes in fees will help support the project and ongoing operations. The Board sees an additional opportunity in revenue from the Town of Sandwich, whose beach parking stickers allow them use of the Sandy Neck Public Beach. The request from the Board is an increase in beach usage fees from the Town of Sandwich. This request for increase is based on the Coastal Resiliency Project as well as the cost of service to operate Sandy Neck Beach Park. The cost of services has outpaced the contribution of the Town of Sandwich.

Staff Report: Donna Bragg addressed the Board. * See attached report.

- The Board will be meeting the new Sandy Neck Natural Resource Officer, Ryan Henry, at next month's meeting.
- We have had two Snowy Owls on Sandy Neck. People should not disturb these birds. The picture was taken by Ryan.
- Gatehouse hours continue to be by appointment only.
- Off-Road Vehicle beach is open 8am-4pm daily.
- No campfires allowed.
- All 2024 Off-Road Vehicle Permits expire January 15, 2025.
- We are still in cold stunned sea turtle season. If a patron finds a turtle, please place it above the high-water mark, cover with seaweed, place some kind of marker like a stick, and call the Gatehouse 508-362-8300. So far, we have had seven Kemps Ridley turtles. There have been over seven hundred turtles rescued throughout the Cape.
- We are having a holiday merchandise sale. Please call the Gatehouse for an appointment.
- Natural Resource Staff went to the International Fund For Animal Welfare, (IFAW), training. They were taught about stranding and identification of types of animals that may be found.
- IFAW has determined that Sandy Neck is one of the places where they can release dolphins. There have been four releases on Sandy Neck.
- There are five outreach Terrapin talks for schools scheduled for December. Assistant Park Manager, Ann Marie Luppino, will be going to the various schools to teach the children about Diamondback Terrapins.
- Natural Resource Officer, Antonio Mancha, is doing a monthly, informational, Sandy Neck newsletter, "Notes from the Field", which is placed on the Sandy Neck website. He will be emailing the newsletter to the Board members monthly.
- Happy Holidays from Sandy Neck! A buoy tree has been placed in the upper parking lot at the observation deck for all to enjoy.
- Tom asked if the Board could go to IFAW training and Donna said that she would check into that and report back to the Board.
- Tom asked if we had any reports of drones at Sandy Neck. Donna said if patrons see drones, they should call the police to report.

Old Business:

- **Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- **Economic sustainability.** Tom has tasked Maureen to bring some ideas for revenue generation. Tom also spoke about getting some experts throughout the year to speak about things relating to Sandy Neck.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** Tom asked if Bill Monroe had any updates regarding the Eagle Scout Projects at Sandy Neck. Tom would like the scouts to come to a Board meeting to present their completed projects. Bill said he would set it up for them to come before the Board.
- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Tom said not much to report. Grant funding will continue in the spring.

New Business: None.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: Pete Sampou said that he had made tentative plans to take students out to the Halfway House in December but those plans fell through. He intends to take a group out on January 17th or 18th. Tom wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked the Board for all the work they have done in 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, Sandy Neck

Attachments:



Email to Mark
Ells.docx



December 9th –
Staff Report.pptx