



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting **March 11, 2024**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on March 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

William Carey
William Monroe
Maureen Piccione
Rene King

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

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

Board Members absent:

Staff: Sandy Neck Assistant Park Manager, Hannah Lawrence, and Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg.

Staff Member absent:

Council Liaisons present: Gordon Starr

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Paul Berger, Tracy Hallett, Wendy Paquette, Rich French, Paul Berger, Jack Bete, John Bete, Robin Bete, and Carter Hickey.

Guest Speaker:

Act on Minutes:

On a motion from Bill Monroe and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Board voted on the acceptance of the January 8, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

Notes from the Chair: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. We still don't have an answer from the Appointments Committee regarding new Board member.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report: Hannah Lawrence addressed the Board. * See attached report.

- 2023 Off Road Vehicle Permits, (ORV), expired January 15, 2024.
- Gatehouse hours are by appointment only.
- Off Road Vehicle Beach open 8am-4pm daily.
- No campfires allowed.
- Revisions have been made to the Sandy Neck Research Application: Yes or no section to indicate if they are willing to present to the Sandy Neck Board on their project during or at the conclusion of the project. Request to provide synopsis at the conclusion of the project that can be shared.
- Upcoming events. March 15, AmeriCorps Alumni Shorebird fencing event. March 18th through the 22nd, Marsh Trail repairs. April 6, Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association cleanup and workday from 9am-Noon. All invited to help out. April 16, Signs of Spring Hike. April 18, Off Road Vehicle, (ORV), 101 for women only and another ORV 101 to be held on June 27 that will be open to everyone. These instructional events are for those who wish to have training for driving on the Off-Road Vehicle beach. Getting vehicle ready, equipment, airing down, etc. To register folks can email Gatehouse, sandyneck@town.barnstable.ma.us.
- Website updates requested by Kris Clark have been implemented. 2023 Cold Stunned Sea Turtle Rescue video has been updated. Past Sandy Neck Newsletters have been archived and are available to view. Wildlife information for the public and who to call has been posted on the website. Walks and Talks for 2024 have been posted on the website.
- On March 14, 2024, there will be a public informational meeting regarding the Sandy Neck Resiliency Project to be held at the Harbor View conference room at 6 pm. Information regarding this meeting is on the Sandy Neck website under Notices.
- There have been a number of seals hauled up on the beach recently. A reminder to call the Gatehouse if you see one. 508-362-8300. If there is no one at the Gatehouse, please call IFAW 508-743-9548. Please stay at least 150 feet from the animal and keep dogs on leash.
- There has been significant dune loss east of Trial 4. Two slides shown. The first showed the damage on 1/30/2024 and the second showed more damage that occurred on February 14, 2024.
- Bill Carey had several questions. Will we have lifeguards this year? Hannah responded that it is too early to tell. Secondly, when do the plovers come in. Hannah said anytime now, we are approaching the season. Rene spoke about the difficulties of getting lifeguards and some of the things that Recreation is trying to accomplish. She suggested teaming up with Sandwich and she will call Sandwich Recreation regarding pool time for those who wish to get their certification. Bill Monroe suggested partnering with the YMCA in Barnstable.

Old Business:

- **Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- **Economic sustainability.** None.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill Monroe addressed the Board stating that right now the Osprey pole is the only scout project in the works. There have been seven major projects that have been taken on by the scouts over the years and Bill anticipates more will come. The Board applauded the efforts and contributions that the scouts have made throughout the years.

- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update. *Taken out of order.** Tom O’Neill addressed the Board. He spoke about the public meeting being held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, and encouraged the Board to attend as well as the public. We are currently ninety percent design for the project. The permitting process is moving ahead. The changes to the design have been refined regarding public safety. Moving in the right direction. Subject to all the stakeholders. Next steps are refining the plan and filing a Notice of Intent after the upcoming meeting. He spoke about all the permits required. The Archeological survey will require a deeper dive as the initial survey did find some artifacts. Tom spoke about the funding. Bill Carey asked about meeting with Town Manager. Tom said when appropriate.

New Business:

- 1. Wrap up and correspondence 2023 Sandy Neck Deer Hunt. * See attached letter.** Hannah Lawrence addressed the Board. The letter was from Brian Malone who had participated in the 2023 Sandy Neck special deer hunt. He had several suggestions that Hannah outlined to the Board. The request is to increase the number of hunters per day. The response is that we have never turned away any participants. Number per day is determined by the number of participants. Most hunters go between Trail 4 and Trail 5 and management has to account for hunter safety with the numbers of hunters in a limited space. The request was to open up all of Sandy Neck for the deer hunt. The response was that there are many user groups including hikers and campers backpacking out to campsites. Currently we close the beach at Trail 2 during the black powder hunt. In order to remain consistent with the archery hunt, it overlaps with the pheasant hunt that is conducted between Trails 1 and 2. To be consistent we limit the deer hunt to between Trail 2 to Trail 5. Next request was to change the hunt days to Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. The response was this is something we would consider but would not arbitrarily change without hunter input. Perhaps a survey might be taken to see what the majority would like to do. There are a lot of folks who plan their vacation time around the hunt and we want to be fair. The next request was for thermal imaging survey of the deer population. The response was this was something we could inquire about, depending on availability. Something else to consider is that the town has other places to hunt deer and the fairness of just surveying Sandy Neck. Request was to allow hunters to go out one hour before legal shooting to set up. The response was that this is already allowed at Sandy Neck. This change was made in 2021. We also allow hunters to go out the Thursday before the hunt for scouting purposes. The last request was to allow hunters to hunt until a half hour after sunset. The response was that we don’t allow any hunting after sunset on Sandy Neck and in order to remain consistent, deer hunters would not be able to hunt after sunset.

- 2. Sandy Neck Policies: * See attached document.**

Hannah Lawrence addressed the Board. She outlined the proposed changes to the Sandy Neck Policies, first proposed change would be to the residency requirement of a one-year lease for those folks renting property in Barnstable. The proposed change would require more proof of residency. Under Section 4. Residency requirements.

****In the event that the Town has reason to believe that an individual providing a property lease as proof of residency does not reside in Barnstable, two forms of proof may be required. The following items will be accepted for the second form of proof:**

- 1. Appearance on Barnstable census for two consecutive years; or**
- 2. Auto excise tax bill with Barnstable address; or**
- 3. Water bill for residential dwelling in Barnstable; or**
- 4. Valid driver’s license with Barnstable address.**

Bill Carey said he believed it was redundant and the verbiage in section 4, covered residency requirements. Hannah explained that the new verbiage would provide another layer of proof of residency if staff felt that residency was questionable. Bill Carey felt it needed to be re-worded because it was confusing, Bill Monroe said he thought it was fine. Rene asked for clarification. Maureen said it was great that it was spelled out for what other documentation could be used. Hannah explained that only one other of the supporting items would be required for proof of residency.

Under Section 5. Off Road Vehicle Permits, (ORV).

Any permit holder caught tampering with their ORV permit and/or the attached RFID tag may have their ORV Permit revoked.

Section 6. Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Beach.

6:2 Stuck Vehicles

Any vehicle (permitted or non-permitted) that is stuck on the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Beach, including the Access Trail is subject to being towed at the operator's expense and may be subject to fines. The operator of a stuck vehicle will be given 15 minutes to attempt to free their vehicle from the sand before the determination for a tow is made at the discretion of the Park Manager or Natural Resource Officer on duty (or any other employee designated by the Town Manager to enforce the regulations at Sandy Neck).

6:3 Air Compressors

It is recommended that all ORVs are equipped with a personal portable compressor as use of the complimentary Sandy Neck compressor is not guaranteed, even during peak times.

Bill Carey referred back to section 7.1 which was not a part of the proposed changes at this time.

Section 7: Property Owner Off Road Vehicle (ORV, Permits).

7.1 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 or partner, son and daughter (including step-son and/or step-daughter).

Bill Carey wants it to include step-relatives which other Board members thought would be too vague.

Hannah said we would look at the verbiage and propose changes to include step-father and step-mother.

At this time, this section was not under consideration or up for a vote.

7.5 Marsh Trail Access

Property owners and their guests shall not block access to the marsh trail or any cross trail. Driving through the marsh to bypass sections of the trail is prohibited.

Pete stated that driving off the Marsh Trail proper was never allowed. Board members said perhaps a fine may be appropriate.

Pete Sampou made a motion to accept the policy changes as written with Bill Monroe seconding the motion.

Tom O'Neill asked for a vote. Bill Monroe, yes; Pete Sampou, yes, Maureen Piccioni, yes; Rene King, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes; Bill Carey, no. Motion was passed by majority vote.

3. Jack Bete, Eagle Scout candidate: Osprey Pole Project* Taken out of order. **See attached.

Tom O'Neill addressed the Board and introduced Jack Bete and his family, Robin Bete, John Bete, as well as Eagle Scout, Carter Hickey. Jack Bete addressed the Board and showed his presentation for his Eagle Scout Project at Sandy Neck. Jack is with Troop 54 from Centerville, MA. His project entails the construction and placement of a new Osprey Pole off the lookout at Sandy Neck Bodfish public beach. The plan also includes informational signage for the public regarding Ospreys. Jack explained the process of design for the nest, as well as the steps he will be taking throughout the process. The overlook links from the parking lot with a handicap accessible ramp. The project timeline consists of design, building and placement. The pole will be installed in April. There was a discussion regarding installation with input from Rich French and Pete Sampou with suggestions for the installation. Bill Monroe added to the discussion of the process. Bill Monroe spoke about Carter Hickey's Eagle Scout project that he had completed. Bill said that the the current project would be the seventh completed on Sandy Neck. The Board was very supportive of Jack's project.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: Rich French addressed the Board. He praised Bill Monroe and all the work he has done on Sandy Neck with the scouts. The Board agreed with a round of applause for Bill.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:



Osprey Nesting Pole
Proposal.pptx



Staff report.pptx



sandy neck
letter.docx



2024 SNK policies
draft.docx