



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting July 14, 2025

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on July 14, 2025, 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, Maureen Piccione, Rich French, and Bill Monroe.

Board Members absent: Rene King and Bill Carey

Staff: Sandy Neck: Sandy Neck Assistant Manager, Ann Marie Luppino, and Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg

Staff Member absent:

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Debra Michaelson Chicoine, Paul Berger, Tracy Hallett, Damien and Allison. Caron John, Robin and Jack Bete.

Guest Speaker:

Act on Minutes: On a motion from Rich French and seconded by Bill Monroe, the Board, by voice and show of hands, voted to approve the June 9, 2025, minutes.

Notes from the Chair:

Correspondence: Tom O'Neill wrote thank you letters from the Board to Zak Mertz and Margi O'Neill from Cape Wildlife for the presentation they did at the June meeting.

Staff Report: Ann Marie addressed the Board. * See attached report.

- The Off-Road Vehicle Beach is open 0.6 miles.
- Cottage Owners can access Trail 12, or an escort.
- Daytrippers are parking with their headlights facing the dunes.
- Camper spots are delineated via cones.
- Gatehouse hours are 8am-9pm, daily.
- Off-Road Vehicle Beach hours are 8am-10pm. Campfires are allowed.
- Off-Road Vehicle Beach speed limit is 5mph.
- Fourth of July report. The Off-Road Vehicle Beach was at capacity by 10am. It was re-opened at 1:30pm.
- The beach was well managed by staff.
- Staff received a lot of positive feedback from all user groups.
- There were two calls that required rescue response. One was for 3 juveniles that had wandered away from the North Finger and couldn't be located. Staff responded by jet ski and land. Barnstable Police responded by land. The Harbor Master responded by boat. Barnstable Fire Department responded by boat. The 3 individuals were found safe. The second incident occurred after curfew. A small fire broke out at the Access Trail. Staff and West Barnstable Fire Department responded, and the fire was quickly put out.
- A reminder to anyone accessing the Great Marsh Trail, it is Diamondback Turtle nesting time. Please drive slowly. If you see a turtle nesting in the road, please stay back and call the Gatehouse 508-362-8300. Pete Sampou said he was out with a group at the Halfway House on July 4th and there were 6 Diamondback Terrapins he found nesting on the Marsh Trail.

Old Business:

Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.

- **Economic sustainability.** None.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** None.
- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. There wasn't anything new to report on the project. He asked Ann Marie about who was awarded the project. Ann Marie deferred to Nina as she was unsure if the contract had been signed yet.
- **New Business: *Out of order. See attached slide show.** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. Tom introduced Eagle Scout candidate, Damien Caron, who presented the Board his presentation for his Sandy Neck project idea. He intends to build 3 wooden toy lending libraries with signage to be located at the 3 pedestrian entrances at Sandy Neck Beach. These libraires will contain beach toys which children can use while at the beach and drop back off in one of three boxes at the end of their stay. This is a recycling project, cutting down on plastics that end up in the trash or the ocean. Over 90% of beach toys are made of plastic and only 9% are recycled. By encouraging the re-use of beach toys there will be less demand for plastic production and less waste. This will make for a cleaner, greener beach and children can enjoy the toys during their stay. Sandy Neck wildlife will have less contact with plastics which are harmful to wildlife. The scouts and parents from Troop 54 will be assisting with the project. Damien explained the design of the boxes, each weighing between 150 to 200 pounds. They will be stable and not susceptible to winds. Danien explained all the potential difficulties with the project and the materials needed. The signage will be weather resistant. All production will be overseen by adults with adults only operating by adults. Design of signs will be done and produced by Damien and his mother, Allison, of Allison Caron Designs. Damien will do fundraising for the box build and anticipates the project will be completed in August. Donna said the boxes will be put away for the winter. They will be made from pressure-treated wood. Kris Clark asked if would advertise the toy libraries. Ann Marie said the libraries will be available from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. Kris Clark suggested the availability should be put on the signage. Bill Monroe talked about the acronym SAFETY that Damien used to describe the project. 1. Supervision, 2. Assessment. 3. Fitness and Skill. 4. Equipment and Environment. Bill said to put that

acronym to all tasks they are performing. Maureen said there is a Cape Cod toy lending library that will be opening at the intersection of 132 and Oak Street in West Barnstable. She said it is a trend for lending out toys. Donna said that this be something that Damien can consider for other Barnstable Beaches. Tom said that there should be some marketing so folks can learn about the project. Kris suggested we put the information in our next Sandy Neck Newsletter. Tom said that once the project is completed the Board would like to have Damien back to speak about the project. Rich asked about tax and Donna said to run it through Sandy Neck as we are tax exempt.

- Tom O'Neill addressed the Board regarding the Board Strategy Discussion. With the big project coming up this fall, staff will have their hands fully implementing the project. It is still a very active project. Tom had spoken to Nina, and it was decided to table the discussion of Board Strategy for now. This doesn't mean Board members shouldn't be thinking about ideas. Maybe address the issue in 3 to 4 months, once the project is up and running. Tom agrees that there should be more educational outreach. Rich said he is involved with Friends of Barnstable Harbor, and they currently have a project that has to do with marsh regeneration. Rich felt he could get someone in to present to the Board regarding their project. Tom thought August or September would be good. Tom suggested Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association may be an idea. Rich asked about the project that the Eagle Scout was doing. Does the Board need to vote? Bill Monroe explained the procedure.
- Election of Board Officers. Bill Monroe addressed the Board and asked if the Chair was interested in being renominated to which Tom replied yes. He asked if the Vice-Chair was interested in being renominated to which Pete replied yes.
- On a motion from Bill Monroe, he nominated Tom O'Neill as Chair of the Sandy Neck Board and Pete Sampou as Vice Chair of the Sandy Neck Board. Rich French seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: Rich French addressed the Board regarding honoring the late Nate King. He is in the process of researching relatives of Nate King. Debra Michaelson Chicione addressed the Board. She asked if there was a way when we send out the email for the 2026 Off-Road vehicle permits, could we include a note regarding the Toy Library Project and donations. Everyone agreed it was a good idea. Kris Clark asked if we could include information regarding Sandy Neck Gift Fund for donations. Donna will speak with Nina. Kris asked if we could let the Board know what the fund is use for. It is a Nina question.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, Sandy Neck

Attachments:



July 14th – Staff
Report.pptx



DC Eagle Project
Proposal.pptx