



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting **May 12, 2025**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on May 12, 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, Rene King, Rich French, Bill Carey, and Bill Monroe.

Board Members absent:

Staff: Sandy Neck: Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg

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

Council Liaisons present:

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Wendy Paquette, and Tracy Hallett.

Guest Speaker:

Act on Minutes: On a motion from Pete Sampou and seconded by Rich French, the Board, by voice and show of hands, voted to approve the April 14, 2025, minutes.

Notes from the Chair: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. Tom reminded the Board that next month, at the June Board meeting, we will have a guest speaker. Zak Mertz, who is the CEO of New England Wildlife Center in Weymouth and heads the Cape Wildlife Center in Barnstable. Zak will explain what the center does and the close relationship with Sandy Neck as a hospital for staff to bring injured wildlife to. Zak will possibly be bringing along a special guest. Tom asks that all Board Member attend.

Correspondence: Tom addressed the Board. On behalf of the Board, Tom sent letters to the two Eagle Scout candidates, thanking them for the projects they did for Sandy Neck. Jack Bete was inducted as an Eagle Scout last Saturday at 10am. Bill Monroe said the letter from the Board was read aloud at the induction ceremony. Grayson Hickey is to be inducted on June 1, 2025. Tom heard back from Jerry Hickey, Grayson's Father and Robin Bete, Jack's mother. Tom said they were great projects. Great community projects with a lot of commitment that will inspire others. Bill Carey thanked Tom for writing the letters. He thought they were well done. Tom said recognition was powerful. He told a story about a letter he had written which had an impact on someone who worked for him.

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

- Gatehouse hours are daily from 8am-9pm.
- Help is being provided for those needing to get their ORV permit.
- The Off-Road Vehicle Beach is open daily from 8am-10pm. Campfires are allowed at 7pm.
- Speed limit on the ORV is strictly 5mph.
- New merchandise for the season is available at the Gatehouse. Donna brought some of the merchandise for everyone to look at.
- We now have portable toilets located on the front beach for patrons.
- Upcoming events: 5/15, Flora & Fauna hike from 10am-Noon. 5/22, ORV 101 for beginners, open to all. Email the Gatehouse to register. sandyneck@town.barnstable.ma.us. 6/6 Public Terrapin release 4pm, all invited to attend. 6/21, Summer Flora & Fauna hike from 10am-Noon.
- Tom asked about the challenges of hiking on Sandy Neck. Donna explained that it is considered a strenuous hike, as you are walking through the dunes. Suggest bringing water, sunscreen and bug spray for the hikes. Wear sturdy shoes, sneakers or hiking boots for the hikes. Rich asked about the issue with ticks. Donna said the former County Entomologist suggest spraying clothing and shoes with permethrin. You spray your items and wait for them to dry before putting them on. Ticks will die within 20 seconds after encountering treated clothing. For dogs, you can spray a bandana, wait for it to dry and put it around the dog's neck. The treatment is good for six washings. We are having areas treated by spraying natural sprays. Picardian is good for gnats, mosquitos, and greenhead flies.
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Old Business:

- **Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** Pete Sampou addressed the Board. He has been going out to the Halfway House with students. He goes out once a month through the spring to make sure everything is in good shape. He has noticed with the high tides of spring that we are eroding around some of the culverts. Especially the largest culvert which is eroding around the concrete. Donna said we were aware of the situation and have placed reflectors all along where it is eroding. Nina said rough estimate, between permitting and having the culvert replaced would be around \$150,000. We will be looking at options. We are past our time for marsh work being done for the season. Pete went under the culvert and picked up rocks and put them up at the culvert. He wants to explore our options. Tom said the Department of Public Works to look at it. We were made aware of the situation and will be working on a solutions. The Board had a discussion regarding the situation. Donna said it is not the cost of the project; it is the timing.
- **Economic sustainability.** None.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** Donna said a Scout had contacted us regarding a project and will be getting back to him. The project he may take on will have to be completed by the fall as that is when our resiliency project begins. Rene King spoke to the Board regarding the Hyannis West third graders coming out to Sandy Neck for a day of learning as part of Sandy Neck Public Outreach Program. Nina has been working at Hyannis West teaching about the turtles of Sandy Neck. Rotary has a Rotary rewards reading program, so Sandy Neck and Rotary have partnered this year. Rotary has enriched the students with books relating to turtles and Nina has taught the children about turtles of Sandy Neck. Tomorrow they will have a field trip to Sandy Neck and 9am. Ann Marie has coordinated the field trip, based on the curriculum provided, to have the students' experience hands-on stations based on what they have been learning in the classroom. Rene hopes to do more projects. Nina will be attending Rotary this Thursday to speak about the project. Rene said the final book giveaway will be held on Wednesday, June 11th and Rene encourages the Board to go to Hyannis West and read a book to the children.
- Tom spoke about Board effectiveness. He spoke about it in January. The town is doing a review on Board effectiveness throughout the town. He would like to take time at the August Board meeting to discuss. He had

said he would do an outline for discussion. Maureen had sent him an email setting out a framework for the Board to talk about. There was a study done in 2003 which set out the strategic responsibilities of the Board. We used that study to create the three discussion areas on our agenda. The mission doesn't change, but how we do it needs to be thought about and discussed. Things like the Hyannis Project outing for the children that we just spoke about gave us the ability to expand our outreach. These are things that should be talked about as a group because there are a lot of ideas. Increasing revenue and other ideas. What do we do after the project is completed? Things to think about. Rene said with the amount of technology, Sandy Neck gives an opportunity to get un-plugged and off the grid. Rene spoke to Pete Sampou about next year having some of his students work with the children, showing them the impact that being at Sandy Neck has had on them. Donna said that Bill Monroe and the scouts would be a great idea in putting scouts with students. It will teach them skills and teamwork. The academic side with Pete and the hands-on with Bill and the scouts. Bill said the traditional way to get children into scouting was going to schools. Getting them into scouting in the first and second grades sets the tone. The idea is to have scouts work with these grades and teach them about all the advantages of being a scout. Boys and girls. Rene said there are after school projects, working with the children on reading. Bill said the Eagle Scout project could be based around the children. Tom is going to do an outline for the August meeting and see if he can get the Town Manager, Mark Ells, to come to our September Board meeting. Tom asked if Maureen would mind if he distributed the letter she wrote. Maureen agreed.

- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board regarding the bidding process for the project. Bids for the project are open until May 15, 2025. At last count, there were 27 companies who took the paperwork to potentially bid on the project.
- National Fish and Wildlife has released a coastal resiliency grant option opportunity, and we have submitted a pre-approval application to them. We won't know probably until June if we are in the running for one of those grants. This is in addition to the Coastal Zone Management, (CZM), grant.

New Business: None.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, Sandy Neck

Attachments:



May 12th – Staff
Report.pptx