



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting May 11, 2026

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on May 11, 2026, 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
Tina Carrington
Rich French

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:

Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Rich French, Bill Carey, Maureen Piccioni, Tina Carrington, and Pete Sampou.

Board Members absent:

Staff: Sandy Neck: Sandy Neck Park Manager, Nina Coleman, Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.

Staff Members absent:

Council Liaisons present:

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Wendy Paquette, Paul Berger, Tracy Hallett, and Robert Bilideau.

Guest Speaker: John Cannavo, Curb Café.

Act on Minutes: On a motion from Bill Carey and seconded by Bill Monroe, the Board, by voice and show of hands, voted on the April 13, 2026, minutes. The vote passed.

Notes from the Chair, Et al: *Taken out of order. Tina Carrington had a follow up about the engraving for Nate King. Tina had some questions for Rich regarding what would be engraved on the rock, and who we would use as a contractor for the project. Rich said he had all that information and it would be Maki Monument working on site. Tina had many questions about the logistics regarding the project for permitting purposes. Tina asked if there was a budget for the project. Nina said it is a Board driven project. Nina asked Rich if he would investigate costs. Rich said he spoke with Nate's daughter and she would like an engraving of an old jeep he had. He must find out what the wording is. Tina asked Rich to keep in contact with her.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report: Nina Coleman addressed the Board. * See attached report.

- Nina said that Sandy Neck is now fully opened. We opened May 2nd. Did a soft opening.
- Gatehouse hours are daily, 8am-9pm. We emailed all active ORV permit holders to let them know we are open seven days a week. We let them know the parking lots are open.
- We have had many wonderful comments regarding the project. The community is very happy.
- Off-Road Vehicle, (ORV), open daily, 8am-9pm. Campfires are allowed. Sunset or 7pm, whichever comes first. The fire permit is included with the purchase of an ORV permit. The public that doesn't have an ORV permit may obtain a fire permit at the Gatehouse at 5pm. Numbers are limited.
- Speed limit on the ORV is 5mph.
- Parking lots are open to the public.

- We opened the new access point in the middle of lower parking lot for people to walk down to the beach. It is Mobi-matted and is a bit steep, but folks who need to can go to the handicap access which is flat. Bill Monroe said the old handicap ramp is steep! As of today, there are three access points down to the beach, There is still a punch list of items to be worked on, and we are working on them now. Graveling areas, shields for lighting, striping and directional indicators. Bill Carey asked about a speed bump for the exit around the Gatehouse. Nina said we are doing that along with signs. Engineers are working on a solution for the pedestrian crossing at the Gatehouse. Bill Monroe said the fire department did a drive around and if they could get around the Gatehouse everyone should be able to. Tom asked about the speed of drivers entering Sandy Neck now that the Gatehouse is further back. Nina said we could move the digital speed sign. Tom suggested a speed bump and Nina said she would investigate it.
- New merchandise is at the Gatehouse. Staff will bring samples to the next Board meeting.
- **Upcoming Events:**
- 5/21 Ribbon cutting event for the re-opening of Sandy Neck. The public is invited. The event is from 10am-2pm. Curb Café will be doing coffee and Sandy Neck lemonade. There will be other goodies and music. Smokey the Bear will be there also. The actual ribbon cutting will be at 1:00 pm. Nina said we tried to get the Governor, but she was not available as it is Memorial Day weekend, but there will be other dignitaries joining us.
- 5/19 Off-Road vehicle 101 class. Email the Gatehouse at sandyneck@barnstable.gov to sign up. This class is for folks who want to become more confident in going out on the off-road and staff will assist them in airing down process, four-wheel drive instruction and the nuances of driving on the beach.
- 6/5 Public Diamondback Terrapin release. Open to the public it will take place at 4pm. Nina hopes to have some terrapins at the 5/21 ribbon cutting event.
- 6/23 Summer and Flora hike with Nina from 10am-Noon.
- We are continuing with our Environmental Justice Outreach program. Sections of Hyannis are designated as environmental justice districts. Several schools we have been doing outreach with, Hyannis West Elementary, and Barnstable Community Innovations School. This is through our Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, (MVP), grant. We do the classroom portion of the outreach and then all third graders from both schools will be coming to Sandy Neck for lunch and fun learning activities. Nina will email the Board with the date of the Sandy Neck site visit. Both schools have Diamondback Terrapins. The shellfish team has been working with the schools to teach them about shellfish and shell fishing.
- A big thank you to Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association, (MBBA), who came out and put all the pallets down in the Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), area. They did in a day what it would have taken us a month to do! This project is to keep the plover out of a certain area. Rich said the food was outstanding. Nina said so far, we are looking good with the plovers.

Old Business:

Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.

- **Economic sustainability.** Tom O'Neill said that Maureen is taking on the project of coming up with ideas for generating new revenue. Once we get through the project, we can start getting back to normal. Tom said it is time to start thinking about our next project. Thinking about what other issues Sandy Neck is facing. Tom said we need to look towards the future. Pete asked if, regarding the project we just completed, have done any outreach to other communities that may be facing the same things as we have regarding coastal resiliency. Nina said she has done a lot of public outreach. Nina attended and spoke at the Cape Coastal Conference, regarding the coastal resiliency project. She had a large group come to Sandy Neck after the conference to show them exactly what has been accomplished at Sandy Neck with this project. They were directors, a very targeted group. Ann Marie and Nina have done a lot of outreach regarding the project, into the colleges and high schools. Donna said once the word spreads, she felt communities would be coming to Nina regarding the process. Pete said there was no reason to reinvent the wheel, and Sandy Neck would stand out as how to do coastal resiliency right. Nina said she provided the matrix of the project to the professionals Rich said that Steve Xhairs was at the beach and he did a heck of a video to show all the improvements. Tom said there were so many elements of the project that were so complicated, and knowing the process is invaluable. Tom said that now that the process

has been done, Nina can explain to others and perhaps speed up the process for them. Nina said the outreach was important but also very rewarding.

- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill asked when the Eagle Scout, Damien, was bringing the toy lending library for his project. Donna said they will set up for the celebration on May 21st. Nina said that on the invitation for the Thursday ribbon cutting, there is a section asking folks to bring toys for the lending library and the children's play area up by the Bathhouse as well. We are also doing the Kindness Rock Project for kids during the ribbon cutting. Bill said that it would be great to get the Cub Scouts to make a basket of kindness rocks to place in the rock garden. Tom asked about the retention pool up by the Snack Shack. There is now fencing around it and Nina said we are working on screening. Nina said the drainage was also adjusted. There is no public health concern.
- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** * This information was included in the Staff Report.

New Business: None.

- **Guest Speaker: * Taken out of order.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board. She said Sandy Neck went through a Request for Proposal Process, (RFP) for the Sandy Neck Snack Shack. There were six companies that applied. John Cannavo, from the Curb Café, won the bid. He had a great presentation and will bring a lot of options to the beach. He will have coffee and food and we really like that. We worked with John a little last year when we didn't have a concessionaire and he helped us out. He brought his coffee trailer up to the beach to sell coffee and some food items.
John Cannavo addressed the Board. John said owns the Curb Café, LLC, which is now the license holder at the Sandy Neck Snack Shack for at least the next three years. He is very excited to get going and the opening day will be Friday, May 22, 2026 following the re-opening ceremony of Sandy Neck on Thursday, May 21st. The Curb Café coffee truck will be there on Thursday for the ceremony serving coffee, and then every day after that they will be open seven days a week from 8am-5pm. They will be serving traditional café items, hot and iced coffees, espresso. Once the Snack Shack is open, it will be the more traditional beach fare. Burgers, hot dogs, lobster rolls, clam strips, chowder, ice cream, things like that. John said they have a great team with a great chef who graduated from the Culinary Institute of America who will be managing the kitchen. A staff of fourteen high school students will be handling the front and taking orders. They have been doing training sessions on the weekends and getting things set up for the season. Everything is moving along and John will be scheduling the inspection with the Board of Health. They will inspect both the inside of the kitchen and the coffee truck. Tom said it was his understanding that the coffee truck would be up there first thing in the morning. John said yes, it would be open from 8am-2 or 3pm. Pete asked if there was potential to keep the Snack Shack open later Friday and Saturday. John said it would depend on staff but if the interest were there, he would like to stay open later Fridays and Saturdays. Tom asked about breakfast food. John said the truck would only be serving drinks, but the kitchen would be open from 8am-10am for breakfast. The kitchen would be serving breakfast sandwiches, eggs, waffles, bagels, things of that nature. Bill Carey said he has a grandson that requested that they have fried dough. John said he didn't know if they would be set up for fried dough but would consider it in the future. He said the menu is set. He would love to see some tables at the overlook for folks to sit and enjoy a meal. Nina said we are considering it.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, Sandy Neck

Attachments:



May 11th – Staff
Report.pptx