



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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## Sandy Neck Board Meeting February 09, 2009

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell  
Lynn Heslinga  
Nate King  
George Muhlebach  
Peter Sampou

Council Liaison:

Henry Farnham

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on February 09, 2009 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Rich French.

### Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Lynn Heslinga, Pete Sampou, Nate King, Bill Carey, and Rich French.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Patrick Paquette.

### Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the January minutes. *Nate King abstained from voting because he was not at that meeting.*

### Correspondence:

**Rich French** reminded the Board, as discussed in the January meeting; the Cape & Island District Attorneys Office will conduct a training on the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law on Thursday, February 12, 2009. The training provides a working knowledge of the Open Meeting Law and is intended to prevent violations from occurring. He again stressed how important this training is and suggested all Board Members try to attend.

### Staff Report:

***Nina Coleman addressed the Board:***

- Current 2008 Stickers are good until April 15<sup>th</sup>. The 2009 [renewal] applications will be mailed the first week in March. The gatehouse will open April 1<sup>st</sup>. A letter will be sent (with the applications) reminding people that alcohol is not allowed on the beach and that no glass bottles are allowed on the beach. The staff will be more aggressive in their patrols due to the number of complaints last summer.

***Nina Coleman addressed the Board regarding an email dated Tuesday, January 27, 2009 from Ron S. Jansson, Chair, Sandy Neck Lighthouse Restoration Committee to Town Council Liaison Hank Farnham: The following is a summary of that email:***

- The Sandy Neck Lighthouse Restoration Committee is a subchapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation.
- [They have] approval from the United States Coast Guard that the Lighthouse be an aid to private navigation and are a subchapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation.
- [They are] responsible for the maintenance of the Lantern Room and must make sure that the light is being maintained and properly operated.
- Twelve people on the committee would appreciate the ability to have priority approval to go to and from the Lighthouse without the necessity of obtaining prior approval on each instance.
- Would [like the Board to] consider providing each of them, at no cost, year round unlimited access passes to Sandy Neck.

**The Board discussed the request and these are their comments:**

**Pete Sampou:** Does not want to set a precedent of allowing unlimited passage by any group. Dangerous opening to “any non-profit organization”. They must go through the proper channels (the Park Manager) so they can get proper/immediate up-to-date information about the beach before they go out. .

**Barbara Bell:** Does not want to make any exceptions to the rules.

**Nina Coleman:** Need equity. Must comply with the Sandy Neck Policies in place. She gets a lot of “special requests” and must review each one and sometimes has to just say “no”.

**Nate King:** The Park Manager must have prior knowledge. They do not need 12 vehicles to do maintenance. Perhaps issue a Special Permit and allow 2 or 3 vehicles.

**Lynn Heslinga:** All the cottage owners pay for their permits. Anyone working on the cottages must pay for a sticker and get a trail pass. She is also a volunteer (on this Board) and does not get a “free pass” - why should the Lighthouse people?

**Rich French:** Can not give a “free pass” to anyone. Need to purchase a sticker like everyone else. If they want 12 people they need to purchase 12 ORV stickers.

**Nina Coleman:** Guests and [their] workers at the cottage colony must purchase an ORV sticker – per the Sandy Neck Rules and Regulations. They (the Lighthouse Committee) could get a trail pass for the whole year if that is what is needed (rather than get prior approval each time they go out) but they do need an ORV sticker.

**Rich French:** The lighthouse committee has boat access available if they have an emergency during a beach closure.

A **motion** was made by Barbara Bell and seconded by Pete Sampou that *the Sandy Neck Lighthouse Restoration Committee must comply with all Rules, Regulations and Policies in place, for Sandy Neck Park Beach. Motion passed unanimously.*

## Old Business

### ◆ **Bathroom Update:**

**Rich French:** Nothing new to report. Everything is “in limbo”.

### ◆ **Barnstable Dredge Project:**

**Rich French:** The dredge work [as it relates to Sandy Neck] is complete. See attached pictures – before and after. There was not as much sand and soil as they had anticipated.

**Bill Carey:** Concerned the sand will wash away.

**Rich French:** The sand is so high/thick it will not wash away. The basin is gone – filled in. No retaining wall needed.

**Nina Coleman:** No beach grass will be planted. They feel native grasses will grow there on its own very soon.

### ◆ **Marsh Trail Repair update:**

**Nina Coleman:** Moving forward. They tentatively have a start date of February 17<sup>th</sup> – depending on the weather.

### ◆ **Child’s beach wheel chair donation update:**

**Nina Coleman:** Spoke with Mike Conena – the gentleman who is donating the chair in memory of his wife, Cynthia. He would like a private ceremony with just his family. Not be part of beach clean-up. Nina will respect his wishes.

## Other Business

### ◆ **Fourth of July:**

**Barbara Bell reported an incident that happened last summer over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.**

**Nina Coleman:** It is very hard in February to discuss something that may have happened over the previous summer. They will be taking a more aggressive stance this summer. There will be no tolerance for alcohol abuse.

**Rich French:** Would like to invite the Police Chief to come to the April meeting so they can discuss the approach this summer and the Board’s concern with problems with alcohol and drinking on the beach.

**Patrick Paquette (from the public):** He would like to come when the Police Chief is present so he can hear about plans for next summer because he was upset with the alcohol abuse last summer and he would like more enforcement next summer. There were problems with fireworks last summer.

**Rich French:** Money will be a big issue next year. It is costly to have the police there.

**Bill Carey:** Can signs be posted “reminding” people that there will be stricter enforcement next summer.

## New Business:

### ◆ **Halfway House:**

**Rich French:** Rich and Nina Coleman went before Town Council last week. A **Halfway House Gift Fund** has been established. The funds can only be used for maintenance, education and research at the Halfway House. Already received a check for \$1,000. See attached before and after pictures.

◆ **Website Discussion:**

**Rich French:** The town is going to help with a website dedicated to Sandy Neck. The domain name is being decided. What would the Board like on this website? Need to let him (or Nina) know asap what they would like included on the website, such as pictures, tides, history, educational information, hunting information, recreational activities, etc. What links would you like? Perhaps a web-cam for bird watching? The town has agreed to maintain the website. The site will list the items for sale (such as t-shirts, hats, etc) at Sandy Neck.

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Adjournment:**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem