



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:

Henry Farnham
Ann Canedy

Sandy Neck Board Meeting July 11, 2011

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on July 11, 2011 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Peter Sampou, Nate King, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, and Rich French. Bill Carey arrived late.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager.
- Public: Wendy Paquette and Diane Lomba.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Pete Sampou and seconded by Lynn Heslinga, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the June minutes as printed. Nate King abstained.

Correspondence:

- See New Business

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- July 4th weekend proved to be a good time at the beach. Lots of sticker/permits were sold, many people, no medical emergencies, and no arrests. Safety was paramount and everything worked out well. Staff is working out very well this summer. Sandy Neck was the only Cape ORV beach open over Fourth of July weekend.
- There are currently 43 pairs of plovers – a record for Sandy Neck. Good habitat out at the point. The chicks are starting to fledge. Beach is open at 1.6 mile – right after Trail 2. Tern colony no longer there (due to crow predation) so just waiting for the [plover] chicks to fledge but still too early to talk about more beach opening.
- The concession stand (Porky's Barbecue & Grill) is working out well. Wednesday night is BBQ Special Night on the beach. Good feedback from beach goers.
- Hank Farnham comments: (1) need more trash receptacles [*they are on order*] (2) could temporary fencing be put around the beach grass to discourage people from walking over the newly planted grass [*yes*] (3) the kids sand/play area is a big success.
- The Board asked if more recycle containers can be placed near the beach exit and also could Porky's staff be more pro-active with helping keep the beach and food areas clean from trash and debris.

Old Business:

Halfway House Usage Guidelines

Lynn Heslinga sent some guidelines to Rich French and Nina Coleman. They will be forwarded to Pete Sampou to be included in the draft Halfway House Usage Guidelines. If any other Board Member has more suggestions, send them to Rich. Next month, Rich will send the draft to the Legal Department for their feedback. The goal is to have these Guidelines reviewed again by the Board and in place for this fall.

Taisto Ranta Memorial

Nate King is suggesting benches (by the sidewalk near the new garage) with a plaque attached to the back. Perhaps the plaque could be mahogany (or cedar) which could withstand the harsh weather on Sandy Neck. Cost is an issue. There may need to be a fundraiser to pay for this project.

New Business:

The following letter was presented to the Board.

*The Rev. Russell H. Allen
28 Seaward Lane
Harwich, MA 02645*

16 March 2011

*Frederick Chirigotis, President
Barnstable Town Council Office
357 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601*

Dear President Chirigotis:

On February 28, 1920, Attorney John D. W. Bodfish conveyed to the Town of Barnstable a portion of Sandy Neck as a park and bathing beach for use by the inhabitants of that town. According to the recorded Deed, the park was to be named "Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park" after his father, and the land was to be maintained and used by the town for recreational purposes in perpetuity. In the event of the town no longer using the land for that purpose, it was to revert to his remaining descendants.

My wife Louisa M. Allen is the granddaughter of Mr. Bodfish, and she and her two sisters Grace E. Price and Susan Bridges are among his few living relatives. Recently at their request I visited the park given the town by Mr. Bodfish, and was pleased to see the extensive improvements being made to it. I am sure that the donor would appreciate the effort being made to enhance and improve his gift.

However, I was surprised to see no mention of the name of the park, or of the originator of its creation. I recall paying an earlier visit there and finding a sign posted near the entrance building stating its name and the name of its donor. It is the recollection of Mr. Bodfish's family that the inclusion of that information in a public way at the site was part of his expectation in giving the town the land, and that it was the responsibility of the town to post such a sign in order to retain possession and use.

It is possible that the sign was not currently visible due to the on-going construction, or the one I previously saw has been misplaced. Whatever the reason, Mr. Bodfish's family respectfully requests that upon completion of the current project an appropriate sign be erected plainly visible to all using the park, indicating its name as "Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park" and its creation by Attorney John D. W. Bodfish as a memorial to his father.

In mid-July, many members of Mr. Bodfish's family will be on-Cape for an annual event called "Ride for Randy." If possible, it would be very meaningful to us to be present then for the rededication of the Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park and its new sign.

*Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Respectfully,
The Rev. Russell H. Allen*

New Business:

Discussion of Rev. Russell Allen letter about Bodfish Beach:

Rich French: This letter is from the Bodfish Family and they want to make sure the beach has some type of signage listing it as "Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park" and that it states it was donated for use by the inhabitants of that town.

Nina Coleman: She has spoken to Rev Allen and he would like some type of signage. It seems the Town has always just called it Bodfish Beach – but it should be "Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park".

Nate King: Remembers a sign that said "Bodfish Park" as you entered Sandy Neck near the Gatehouse.

Bill Carey: Also remembers a big wooden sign from years ago.

Nina Coleman: The area in question is what we call "Bodfish Park" which would include the public beach area and the new bathhouse location. Not the entire property known as Sandy Neck Beach Park. Perhaps a bolder near the new bathhouse would be representative of their request.

A **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King and unanimously voted by the Sandy Neck Board:

- (1) Acknowledging the letter from Rev. Russell H. Allen into the public record and
- (2) Recognizing that Sandy Neck Beach Park needs permanent signage placed in a prominent location (in the area) naming this beach "Benjamin Bodfish Memorial Park" as stipulated in the deed giving this land to the Town of Barnstable.

Discussion of the motion:

The Board said they would not like a sign on the wall of the new bathhouse as that would require continual maintenance. Perhaps a bolder would be better.

Hank Farnham: Suggested buying a bolder and asking Maki Monument to engrave it. (That could be costly.)

Bill Carey: Suggested a big sign of wood at least 3+ inches thick with four foot posts near the gatehouse. You could engrave whatever you want on the sign. This may be more prominent.

Lynne Heslinga: We have to make sure that this area is acknowledged and we must be respectful of their request.

Nina Coleman: She will (continue to) keep in touch with Rev Allen and tell him about tonight's vote.

Hank Farnham: He wants an actual letter sent to Rev Allen and the Board copied.

Nate King: Agrees that a better location would be near the gatehouse so everyone could see it.

Pete Sampou: Does not want a big sign. He wants the area to look more natural and likes the idea of a bolder up near the bathhouse and beach. It would still acknowledge the donation.

Nina Coleman: The area in and around the gatehouse has a number of signs and she would like it at another location closer to the actual location of the Bodfish Beach. The entire 4,500 acres of the Sandy Neck Beach Park is not the donated area only a section of the public beach area.

Rich French: Perhaps we can get the exact location of the area (from a plot plan) and put the sign/bolder in front of that location.

The following **amendment to the motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King:

This motion is made with the understanding that the exact location and type of signage will be decided at another meeting after the exact lot line is determined.

Yes Vote: Peter Sampou, Nate King, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, and Rich French.

No Vote: Bill Carey.

Public Comment:

- none

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem