



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
June 13, 2011

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 13, 2011 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, 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, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Wendy Paquette and Diane Lomba.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the May minutes as printed. Rich French abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

Correspondence:

- none

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The beach is open at 1.6 miles. There 4 broods of chicks are in the ORV corridor. Two nests have not hatched yet. Currently, there are 42 plover nests. More are present past Trail 6. Habitat there is fabulous for plovers Terns are now at Trail 2. Big tern colony between Trails 4 & 5. Also some west of the public beach. Seeing a lot of activity, however, this is no different than other years. Two nests between Trail 1 & 2. May cause closure but not yet hatched.
- There are nine diamondback Teripan turtle nests. One was collected for the head start program. Right now the staff is releasing the turtles that were "head started" over the past winter at local schools and libraries. Very popular program for the youth.
- All osprey nests are active with the exception of the one at the Halfway House.
- The gatehouse is open everyday (including Saturday and Sunday) from 9 am to 9 pm. There is a night gate attendant on duty. Fully staffed and will add another gate attendant after July 1st.

Old Business:

“Final” Bathhouse Update

There was a Grand Opening Celebration with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, June 8, 2011. It should be noted the Bathhouse and Snack Bar did open for Memorial Day Weekend – on time and on budget! It was a very busy weekend. Good start to the summer. Robert B. Our Company was complimented on their work and professionalism throughout the entire project.

The following pictures from the celebration were shown.



Folks enjoying the area prior to the actual ceremony.



put words here



Rich and Nina



ribbon cutting

Halfway House Usage Guidelines

The following DRAFT policy was given to Board Members.

They will review and report back any additions and/or corrections for the next meeting.

Policies concerning the management of town owned cottages on Sandy Neck. DRAFT

The Sandy Neck Board (SNB) (and associated Enterprise Account for the financial sustainability of the Sandy Neck Park) in the Town of Barnstable is responsible for recommending policies and practices to the Town Manager for the use and management of this strip of town owned land. Towards that end the SNB makes the following recommendations concerning the use of one of the two cottages on Sandy Neck wholly owned by the Town of Barnstable (the Halfway House).

Under the direction of Richards French the Halfway House underwent a complete renovation with the help of many skilled (and unskilled) volunteers. It stands today in great shape and can provide shelter and/or be used as a base for groups (that traditionally have brought a long term benefit to Sandy Neck).

The purpose of this recommendation is to provide clear direction and consistency for the park manager and the potential users and/or advocates interested in maintaining the special nature and use of the Halfway House.

Research on Sandy Neck and the Great Marsh has a scientifically noteworthy role in estuarine ecology, and, the Halfway House, specifically, has a long and stable history of educational and research based occupancy (spanning more than 30 yrs). It was regularly used by the Barnstable High School (BHS) as part of a coastal ecology program. For the last twenty years the House has been used regularly as a college level research station.

The SNB, however, recognizes that there are groups of people besides educators and scientists that can impart a lasting benefit to the ecology and unique nature of Sandy Neck and the community of greater Barnstable. These groups must receive no monetary benefit from access to the House, rather they might request to access this shelter because of the uniquely serene and beautiful environs the House offers. For a modest sum of money (suggested at \$150/night, or another form of donation acceptable to the Sandy Neck Park Manager) groups that run art or nature programs should have the ability to visit and/or stay at the House. Said group would be responsible for contacting the Park Manager to request use of the House.

While the House can always provide emergency shelter for youth groups, it is not the intention of SNB to suggest that young people (who can make use of the existing camping facilities at trail 4) should have access to the House. A mature, respectful, and restrained mindset is a necessary condition of individuals visiting the House. Requests from such groups, however, will be considered on their respective merit and judged by the Sandy Neck Park Manager on a case by case basis.

The SNB recommends to the Town Manager that the Halfway House continue to be used by educators and researchers in exchange for services and/or monies that these groups have traditionally provided to Sandy Neck. Additionally, the SNB recommends that other, not for profit, groups be recognized by the Park Manager as acceptable short-term occupants of the House because of the lasting benefit they or their group provides to Sandy Neck and the town.

NOTE: additional text needed that addresses insurance requirements and liability release for groups using the House. It will be added after consultation with Town attorney.

Taisto Ranta Memorial

New Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- none

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem