



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting May 14 2012

Chairman:
Richards French

Vice Chairman:
William Carey

Board Members:
Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaison:
June Daley

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on May 14, 2012 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, Lynn Heslinga, George Muhlebach, Bill Carey and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: June Daley.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager; and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Town Councilor Ann Canedy. Many people were present. Those who spoke are identified in these minutes.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the April minutes as printed. Lynn Heslinga abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

Correspondence:

The Board was given this letter from the Town Clerk regarding emails.

Attorney Ruth Weil, IT Director Dan Wood and I have worked to create the attached document regarding emails of board, committee and commission members.

We have recently had some public records requests for all emails of members of a particular board. This request drew our attention to the fact that we needed to come up with some suggestions for board members to follow in order to protect their privacy, yet make it easy to extract emails if there was a public records request.

If the suggestions are followed on the attached document, the town can assist members in gathering the data appropriate to the request. We ask that if you are the liaison to a board, committee or commission, please copy this and distribute one to each member. We will make copies and give them to each of the new members when they are sworn in to office.

Thank you for your cooperation, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask. Linda E. Hutchenrider, MMC/CMMC

The Sandy Neck Board Email
TOBSNAB@town.barnstable.ma.us

The Board discussed this information. This new email address is to protect the Board Members. Whenever you are emailing each other (still being very careful that you are not violating any open meeting laws) you should "cc" this email address. This way if there is a public record's request for a copy of an email – the Town can retrieve it from this depository mailbox.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- We are coming to Memorial Day weekend and we are fully staffed. The new full time Sandy Neck Natural Resource Officer Chris Nappi will be starting next week.
- Gatehouse hours currently are Sunday thru Thursday 8:00AM to 4:00PM with extended hours on Friday and Saturday. From Memorial Day until Labor Day, it will be 8:00AM to 9:00PM everyday. Staff is on longer hours (including overnight security) but the gatehouse itself is only open until 9:00PM. You must be past the Gatehouse by 9:00PM to stay on the beach until 11:00PM. Beach Curfew is 11:00 PM to 8:00AM.
- Please check the website for all updated information. <http://www.sandyneckbeachpark.com>
- Terns are back but they have not yet started nesting, which is normal.
- Plovers are back and so far there are 20 nests. Already had a predation. All nests right now are east of Trail 2.
- Beach cleanup was a huge success. Thank you MBBA for your help. There were over 100 people helping including Cotuit, Centerville and Dennis Boy Scout Troops. Thank you everyone for your help.

Old Business:

ORV parking proposal for 2012

The following letter was written and distributed by Nina Coleman. She emphasized again that safety is the biggest issue. These changes are only when there are beach closures.

Dear Sandy Neck Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to present our 2012 Sandy Neck Parking Plan. As you know we are in a trend of increasing beach use. In fact, ORV beach permit sales have increased 40% in the last nine years. Due to this dramatic increase in use, we are concerned about our ability to provide safe and equitable access to ORV beach users on extremely busy weekends during beach closures. As you know, beach closures occur due to our legal obligations to protect federally and state listed shorebirds during the nesting season.

The following plan is the result of discussions with the Sandy Neck Board and feedback from the public.

- 1. When beach closures and/or tides cause limited ORV parking, Sandy Neck staff will be creating camper/chase parking areas. These areas will equal roughly half of the available ORV parking space and will be first come first served. Wherever possible, this parking will be on the berm side of the ORV corridor. Once filled, the beach will be closed to additional campers for the remainder of the day and night. The beach will be re-assessed for parking at 9:00AM (the following morning) and may be re-opened to additional campers at that time if staff feels there is adequate parking available.*
- 2. When beach closures and/or tides cause limited parking, day trippers will be parked (wherever possible) on the berm perpendicular to the shoreline (facing the dune). Once Sandy Neck staff determines that the beach is filled to capacity, ORV access will be closed for the remainder of the day. The beach will be re-assessed for parking at 6:00 pm and may be re-opened to day trippers at that time if staff feels there is adequate parking availability.*
- 3. A new policy will be created that requires patrons to remain with their campers overnight (i.e. no parking and leaving of campers on the beach in order to "save" spaces).*
- 4. Speeding will be aggressively enforced and additional signs will be installed.*
- 5. When possible, Sandy Neck staff will be actively parking patrons on the beach in order to maximize parking and minimize safety risks.*
- 6. Over the winter of 2012-2013, the above procedures will be discussed in an open forum with public comments welcome. Amendments to the parking plan and additional procedures will be drafted by the Sandy Neck Park Manager for the 2013 season.*

Sandy Neck Board Comments:

- **Pete Sampou:** Good job. You should be able to fit a lot of people onto the beach.
- **Nina Coleman:** This plan will make the beach less chaotic. It should maximize the number of people on the beach but there will be times when people will be turned away. Probably about 5 weekends this summer.
- **Rich French:** We are trying to have everyone on the beach but there will be closures at some times. Safety is the key. This is a reasonable compromise for this summer.
- **Nina Coleman:** Call the gatehouse @ 508-362-8300 or check the website <http://www.sandyneckbeachpark.com>. If and when there are closures, this plan will take effect and extra staff will be on duty and explain the plan.

New Business:

Sandwich Fees

Rich French would like to revisit the Town of Sandwich fee structure. He will write a letter to Acting Town Manager Tom Lynch asking him to reengage the discussion with Sandwich Town Manager regarding the fee structure. He would like to continue last year's discussion. Everything was put on hold and the options from last year should be brought forward again. The Board briefly discussed the matter and agreed that Rich French should draft a letter and send it out.

Public Comment:

- **Jay Lamothe:** Regarding fairness - why don't day trippers pay a daily fee?
- **Nina Coleman:** Everyone pays the same amount for an ORV sticker but because day trippers can not stay over night, they do not pay an overnight fee. Campers and chase vehicles take up more room and get more time on the beach.
- **Nina Coleman:** There are good day trippers and good campers. But there are also difficult day trippers and difficult campers. One group is not better than another. Both user groups have difficult people and have issues.
- **Rich French:** Stressed again – if there is a problem – call the gatehouse when it is happening. It doesn't do any good if you complain later if it is not brought forward when it is happening. Call the gatehouse!
- **Bob Lovell:** If you charged day trippers it would bring in money for extra staff. Asked where the parking will be during closures.
- **Rich French:** We are trying to get as many campers on the beach as possible and people will have to adjust during beach closures.
- **Nina Coleman:** There may be less desirable places during closures but the campers will have to make that choice themselves as to parking in the less than desirable place or leaving. It is their choice to stay or leave.
- **Cindy Lovell:** How will someone get off the beach early if you are parked 3 or 4 campers deep?
- **Nina Coleman:** If you know you are going to want to leave early – you will have to make a prior decision before you come and park appropriately.
- **Scott Garlington:** How can I be near my day trippers friends if you don't let us park together? What about police details?
- **Nina Coleman:** We do have a line item for police and have police details on the weekends.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem