

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting March 09, 2015

Chairman:
Richards French

Vice Chairman:
Thomas O'Neill

Board Members:
William Carey
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:
Ann Canedy
Phil Wallace

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on March 09, 2015 at the 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: George Muhlebach, Pete Sampou, Nate King, Tom O'Neill, Bill Carey and Rich French.
- Board Member absent: Lynn Heslinga.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaisons present: Ann Canedy and Phil Wallace.
- Invited Guests: Christine Player, CLE Engineering and Steve McKenna, MA Coastal Zone Management.
- Public: Wendy Paquette, Diane Lomba, Taylor Masters, Cathy Masters, Lynne Poyant, Director Community Services, and John Juros, Town Architect.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the January minutes as printed. [February 09, 2015 – meeting cancelled due to snow – no minutes].

Correspondence:

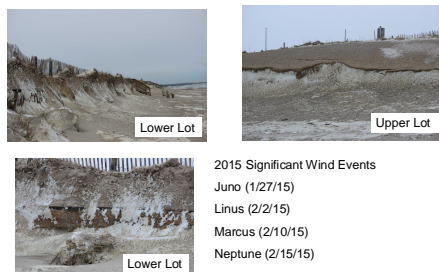
- There is a Conflict of Interest Training Session in the Hearing Room at Barnstable Town Hall on Thursday, March 12th 6:00 PM. This training is not mandatory but if you have not attended a class before, it is strongly recommended that you go to this one.
- Letter from MBBA indicating they have set aside the date of Sunday April 19th for the 2015 Sandy Neck Beach Conservation Project. (*Attached at end*)

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The gatehouse will be open starting April 1st. Permit renewal applications have been mailed out. Remember the ORV stickers are "Resident and Non-Resident only". No longer have "Sandwich stickers".
- Starting to interview for most positions - check the Town's website under "employment".
- The parking lot is plowed but the access trail is still not passable. Front beach not yet open to the public for ORV use.
- April 19th spring clean-up – hope the Board Members can attend.

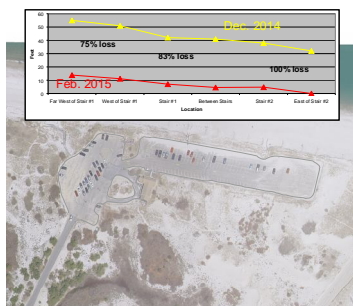
Storm Damage from the
Winter 2015



Lower lots hit more by erosion this year whereas last year the upper lot was affected by the bad weather. Four big storms this winter [2014/2015].



Sacrificial Sand Loss 2015 (Juno)



←
Sacrificial
Sand
“saved” the
lower lot.

Cost over
two years.



Costs for Sacrificial Sand 2013-2015

Dec. 2013-Cost \$119,250 (5,500 c/y)

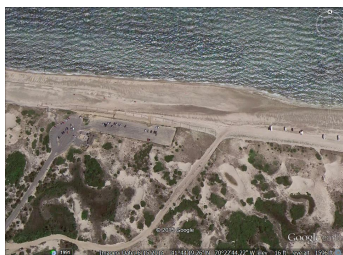
Dec. 2014-Cost \$90,000 (4,300 c/y)

Feb. 2015-Cost \$50,000 (2,600 c/y)-EMERGENCY

Total \$259,250



Sandy Neck Parking Lot/Beach
Summer 2014



Low swale area
changed from
2014 – now is
filled in and
moved to east.

← Beach
changes all the
time.



Must talk about
different
options.

Prepare for Phase II and/or Retreat



Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

Erosion Control Solutions for the dune in front of the Sandy Neck Parking Lot.

Christine Player, CLE Engineering, presented a Powerpoint Slide Show. (Available at MEA office. Photos were also presented and they, too, are available at MEA office.) OR this entire meeting is on line at: <http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/SandyNeckPark>. Steve McKenna, MA Coastal Zone Management (CZM) was also present to answer questions.

The following are highlights from **Christine Player**’s presentation:

- There is an urgent need to help with the erosion issue. Prior to 2013, the dune was stable and healthy. Loss to dune over the last 2-3 years. The Town has undergone three stabilization efforts (Dec 2013, Dec 2014 and Feb 2015.)
- Sandy Neck is a sensitive environmental area – protected by State and Federal Regulations. This is very challenging because you can not interfere with the dunes and its movement under the Wetland Protection Act (from 1972). You can add sand but you can not take it away. Must balance the action with the potential result. Plus, there are endangered species habitat issues.
- All work done must be approved by regulatory boards for both short term and long term solutions. Try to keep work above high-tide line for less permitting requirements. An immediate short term option is sacrificial sand which is

permissible, easy, immediate and temporary – but expensive. Another short term option is sand filled coir bags which last longer.

- Sand filled coir bags, an immediate short term option of about 5 years, would have an estimated initial construction cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000. Annual maintenance dollar amount not included.
- When you look at long term considerations, must include regulatory challenges because of ACEC, and protected and endangered habitat. Large scale beach nourishment is very expensive. Another option is retreat which would keep current parking capacity and access to beach and address public health and safety issues related to the existing septic system by relocating. There is state grant money that may be available for this work.
- There is a need to attain balance between the protection of infrastructure and public access. Must value resources and habitats. There is always going to be impact and need to minimize it. Need to find long term option but it takes commitment from everyone involved.

The following are questions & answers and concerns regarding this erosion:

- **Steve McKenna:** CZM is a coastal agency that will work with the town as a liaison with state and federal agencies. Due to all the current erosion issues (all over the entire state – not just Sandy Neck) – there may be more flexibility to rebuild areas. Realize Sandy Neck is one of the most protected areas around the state. Economics will drive decisions. CZM has grant money available to communities (six million dollars).
- **Nina Coleman:** No clear path but best two choices are coir bags and retreat. The regulatory path is long and arduous. Retreat has been discussed for the past 2 years and “still on the table” and glad CZM is willing to be a liaison.
- **John Juros:** There is currently a CIP in the works for the design and structure of coir bags. Retreat was not allowed by the regulatory agencies before and good to hear there may be a chance of retreat down the road which would be at least 2 ½ to 3 years away. Huge state blockage before which now may be more flexible - but not that optimistic.
- **Tom O’Neil:** Yes, need long term plan – but could we just put sand bags out every year - would that work long term. Money is needed every year no matter what you do for solutions.
- **Ann Canedy:** State & Federal Agencies and Beach Managers are working together on access issues. They are trying to get experts together to work on these issues. Look at other states, too.
- **Steve McKenna:** There has been a major shift in the regulatory opinions at the state level. Coastal Erosion Commission is meeting March 25th to discuss the (older) regulations and see if they should be changed.
- **Ann Canedy:** Need to look at Sandy Neck as a unique resource – very specific problems and concerns. She (personally) is against retreat. Not the answer.
- **Steve McKenna:** When asked if the composition of the state agencies has changed over the last 5-10 years, he said “yes”. There is a different attitude.
- **John Juros:** Must seek balance between natural environment and natural recreational use and educational use that connects the two. Still disappointed that we were not allowed to build the educational center - maybe can now look at that again. Need to work on CIP now for the future.
- **Bill Carey:** Need to save the barrier beach and need to save the infrastructure. How do we do it?
- **Steve McKenna:** CZM is the right conduit. Their mission statement is to protect coastal resources while balancing human use. He could bring Sandy Neck’s plans forward and talk to everyone, such as Natural Heritage, and DEP. Parking lot is more vulnerable every year. The land will continue to move no matter what you do or don’t do.
- **Pete Sampou:** In the long run, we should look to retreat and not protect the parking lot but rather move it.
- **Christine Player:** Sandy Neck may not have a developed area but the resource itself has economic value.
- **Rich French:** Thank you all for your time and work for Sandy Neck – we will continue to look at the issues and need to talk to the State. He will write some letters to State Officials.
- **Bill Carey:** Please keep on the agenda for future.

Public Comment:

- **Wendy Paquette:** Asked about Plum Island and should we look at their plans? She supports putting in sand bags and also looking to long term options.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment: Letter from MBBA