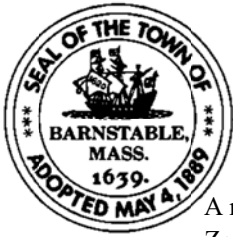


TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

1189 Phinney's Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

Tel: 508-790-6272
Fax: 508-790-6275



Sandy Neck Board Meeting November 9, 2020

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm by remote Zoom meeting. *In accordance with the Governor's Order Prohibiting Gatherings of More Than 10 People, issued on March 15, 2020, and effective through May 18, 2020, unless further extended, the June 8, 2020 public meeting of the Sandy Neck Board shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.*

Chairman:
Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:
Peter Sampou

BoardMembers:
Ann Canedy
William Carey
William Monroe
Hank Farnham
Joe O'Brien

CouncilLiaison:
Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable PD
Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

- Board Members remotely present: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Bill Monroe, Bill Carey, Joe O'Brien, and Hank Farnham.
- Board Member absent: Ann Canedy.
- Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.
- Staff Member absent: None.
- Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark and Gordon Starr.
- Public: Wendy Paquette.
- Guest Speaker: None.
- Tom O'Neill addressed the Board welcoming back Hank Farnham.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the September 14 minutes as printed.

Public Comment: None.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- Off Road Vehicle Beach curfew is 4 pm. A push notification was sent out.
- No fires allowed on beach as of November 1st.
- Seasonal employees are pretty much done for the year. Down to full time staff until March.
- Heading in the direction of putting ORV permitting online. Shellfish permits are already being offered online.
- Hunting is taking place at Sandy Neck. Mostly pheasants, and some rabbit and coyote hunter. Big hunting day on Veterans Day. No deer hunting on Sandy Neck this year.

- No turtle standings yet. If a member of the public finds a turtle on the beach, cover with seaweed and call Gatehouse or Mass Audubon.
- Warm stretch of weather resulted in lots of traffic on the beach and the hiking trails. Some issues with people climbing on the dunes, regulations prohibit people in the dunes. Some other issues; 1 medical emergency, dogs off leash, and curfew violations.
- No snowy owls as of yet. No pets past closure line so as not to disturb wildlife there.
- Donna Bragg addressed the Board regarding the sale of Sandy Neck merchandise. Merchandise will be sold at the Garage on 3 Sundays in December. December 6th, 13th, and 20th from 9 am to noon. We will take cash, checks or credit cards. Will post the information on the Town Facebook page.

Old Business: None.

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.**
- 2. Economic sustainability.**
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.**
 - Tom O'Neill asked Bill Monroe to provide the contact information for Eagle Scout Brennen Lowen who completed his project at Sandy Neck. The Board will send Brennen a thank you card.

New Business:

- 1. Conservation Commission report.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board.
 - A report to the Conservation Commission is required each year as a requirement of Sandy Neck Orders of Conditions. These orders were set to expire in April 2021 and we have been given a one year extension.
 - Nina presented the report to the Conservation Commission and there were no questions regarding the report.
 - There was an increase in the HCP, (Habitat Conservation Plan), from deterring one plover pair to deterring two plover pairs from nesting in the first section of the Off Road Vehicle Beach, (ORV).
 - Report on Plovers, Diamondback Terrapins and Terns. Discussion followed.
 - Report on 2019 Sea Turtle stranding on Sandy Neck.
 - Report on invasive species removal.
 - Report on enforcement. Number of enforcement issues down.
 - Report on revenue. Revenue down due to beach limitations and Covid. Discussion followed regarding revenue and projections.
 - Report on Off Road Vehicle permit sales. Down due to Covid and beach limitations due to nesting birds.

- Report on all other aspects of beach operations and lack of Sandy Neck typical programs due to Covid-19.
- Tom O'Neill asked Barnstable Police Department Liaison Chris Kelsey to comment on any aspects of the entire report he felt important. Chris Kelsey responded by stating that enforcement issues and Police presence were of interest to him and that he saw a difference in incidents based on the nine o'clock curfew. Perhaps a compromise of a ten o'clock curfew would help keep the incidents down.
- **See attachment for full report.**

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment:

- Wendy Paquette addressed the Board stating that it was great to see Hank Farnham back. Wendy was having issues with the Sandy Neck App. Donna Bragg explained the fix for the issue. There also was a question regarding fishermen on the beach past curfew. Donna Bragg responded that fishermen were allowed to fish with the tides.
- Diane Lomba addressed the Board wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:

Piping Plover

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Pairs (Total Count)	34	28	27	36	46
Number of Eggs	206	159	127	150	202
Eggs Hatched	43	48	77	100	60
<i>Chicks Fledged</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>48</i>

Over seven (9⁺) miles of symbolic fencing installed for plover habitat protection.

Diamondback Terrapin

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
# of Nests Head Started	7	13	10	10	10
# of Nests Capped	135	139	59	43	67

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Nests	176	202	172	261	272
Number of Nests Predated	21	124	78	170	195
<i>Potentially Hatched Nests</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>77</i>

Diamondback Terrapins Head-Started: 57 turtles in 28 organizations.

Terns:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Least Terns (pairs)	54	73	97	96	99
Common Tern (pairs)	0	0	0	0	0

Stranded Sea Turtles (fall of 2019):

65 Kemp's Ridley
4 Loggerheads
1 Green Sea Turtle

Wetland Restoration:

89 isolated freshwater wetlands treated.
Salt marsh also treated

*Restoration refers to application of herbicides on Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) Rusty Willow (*Salix atrocinerea*) and Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and mechanical removal of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicari*) and an introduced grass (*Panicum amarum ssp. amarulum*).

Enforcement:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<i>Citations</i>	67	27	47	25
<i>Written Warning</i>	8	7	7	11
<i>Verbal Warnings</i>	591	375	408	216
<i>Permits Revoked</i>	16	6	11	4
<i>“No Trespass” Issued</i>	4 people, 1 dog	3 people 3 dogs	7 people 1 dog	1 person 0 dogs

Revenue (fiscal year-Munis)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Beach Parking	\$125,815	\$144,880	\$129,490	\$121,985	\$98,405
ORV Permit*	\$725,578	\$728,512	\$572,590	\$481,357	\$442,274
Camp Fire Permit			\$3,525	\$3,115	\$2,615
Special Permit			\$930	\$1,085	\$780
Camping Fees			\$78,670	\$70,370	\$75,140
Horse Fees			\$1,960	\$4,820	\$2,260
Sandwich Revenue	\$44,804	\$45,924	\$47,072	\$48,248	\$49,454
Beach Concession	\$4,200	\$4,313	\$5,100	\$5,200	\$5,200
Cottage Lease Fees	\$55,800	\$53,200	\$55,375	\$58,850	\$54,750
Parking Stickers	\$70,135	\$68,640	\$71,258	\$76,169	\$72,877
Merchandise	\$40,017	\$48,715	\$39,179	\$41,102	\$27,941
Miscellaneous	\$1,473	\$1,856	\$346	\$1,150	0
Earnings on Investments	\$6,110	\$7,191	\$11,664	\$16,484	\$16,295
Total Revenue	\$1,073,932	\$1,103,231	\$1,017,159	\$929,935	\$847,991

*2018 campfire fees, special permits, overnight camp fees and horse fees were broken out into their own categories

Off Road Vehicle Permits (calendar year Jan.-Oct.)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Barnstable Resident	1880	1761	1504	1476	1137
Non Resident	2665	2731	2464	2372	1954
Property Owner	138	146	135	131	126
Total # ORV permits	4,683	4,770	4,103	3,979	3,217

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
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Number Camping Nights	7,282	5,976	5,466	5,451	2,976
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Escorts

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
June	6	4	10	8	1	5
July	13	6	5	15	9	10
August	13	0	0	12	8	26
September	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	32	10	15	35	18	41

Hunting: Pheasant Hunt: October 16th - November 25th (276 pheasant stocked)

Tent Camping: 0 nights due to COVID

Campfire Permits for the Public Beach: 33 permits

Two-Wheel Drive Camper Tests: 20 tests

Special Permits (weddings, groups gatherings, etc.): 2 permits

Daily Horse Permits: 13 daily permits

Walks and Talks (working with BLT and MA Audubon): 0 events due to COVID

Beach Clean-ups (working with MBBA and Coast sweep): 0 events due to COVID

Junior Ranger Programs (working with the Recreation Department): 0 programs due to COVID

Halfway House Permits: 0 use due to COVID

Portable Toilets Available on the Beach: 5 units