

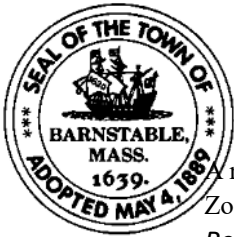
TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting

April 12, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on February 8, 2021 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. Zoom information can be found on the Sandy Neck Agenda.*

Chairman:

Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:

Peter Sampou

BoardMembers:

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

CouncilLiaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

BarnstablePD

Liaison:

Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

- Board Members remotely present: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Ann Canedy, Joe O'Brien, and Hank Farnham.
- Board Members absent: Bill Carey and Pete Sampou.
- Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.
- Staff Member absent: None.
- Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.
- Barnstable Police Liaison:
- Public: Wendy Paquette, Paul Berger, Rich French, and Diane Lomba.
- Guest Speaker: None.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Joe O'Brien and seconded by Bill Monroe, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as printed. Bill Monroe, yes; Ann Canedy, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Hank Farnham, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Public Comment: None taken at this time per Chairman Tom O'Neill.

Correspondence: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board.

- Tom received a notification from the Town Council, through an email from Cynthia Lovell, regarding re-appointments to the Sandy Neck Board. Tom O'Neill, Hank Farnham and Ann Canedy's terms are set to expire in June. Tom asked if Ann Canedy and Hank Farnham received notification via email from Cynthia Lovell. Ann and Hank indicated they had not. Tom O'Neill told the Board members that he had emailed Cynthia Lovell with two questions. The first question was had Ann Canedy and Hank Farnham been informed of the re-appointments and the second question was asking if there was anything else that he needed to do. Cynthia Lovell responded that both Ann Canedy and Hank Farnham had been informed and that there was nothing else Tom was required to do. Tom said he was going to follow up on the notifications as the deadline to respond is May 3rd. Councilperson Kris Clark asked Tom to copy her on the inquiry email being sent to Cynthia Lovell. Tom said he would do so.
- Tom O'Neill reminded the Board members that if any of them were unable to attend any meeting to please contact him in advance. Bill Carey has missed four meetings due to his work schedule and his issues with getting on Zoom. Ann Canedy said she would contact Bill and invite him to join the meetings with her.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- We are now in the in season in April with regard to regulations. The Town Manager has reviewed and approved the Covid proposal for Sandy Neck. Campfires are allowed and the curfew for daytrippers is 10 pm. This has been posted on the website and a push notification via the App has been sent out.

- Covid restrictions are subject to change and we are waiting on the updates. Managing the beach right now is challenging and we want to be consistent with other beaches.
- Continuing to work on staffing. Cape-wide there have been challenges for staffing. 80%-85% of seasonal bookings have already occurred.
- There have been a few campers showing up to camp on the beach. We are about to roll out the online camper reservation system.
- The Off Road Vehicle Permit sales are way up. At this point we are at 1, 205 permits sold. Last year due to Covid there were 3,200 sold for the whole season.
- Pictures of the sand placement for the frontal dune at Bodfish were shown. Sandy Neck was granted an emergency appropriation of \$108,000 for sand placement. Robert Our won the bid. They placed 1,000 cubic yards of sand on the front dune at a cost of \$84,000 resulting in some savings in cost.
- The DPW has been working on and have completed extensive Marsh Trail repairs. The breach on Trail 5 has been fixed. The water has been coming up much higher on high tides as a result of climate change. Bill Monroe remarked that the trails were markedly improved and that the DPW did excellent work. Tom O'Neill is sending a note to the head of DPW, Dan Santos, thanking them for the great work they did on the Marsh Trail.
- Nina showed a picture of the plover nests from 2020 on the HCP, (Habitat Conservation Permit). The HCP is from the Access Trail to a little past Trail 1.
- The 2021 verbiage for the HCP was allowed to change some language through communication with Natural Heritage to reflect a more aggressive response within the HCP for the deterrence of two Plover pairs within the four acres of HCP. Nina showed a picture of the raking being done on the HCP.
- Councilperson Kris Clark asked for clarification regarding the Habitat Conservation Permit. Nina responded that it is a Federal Program funneled through the State under Section 10, where Sandy Neck is allowed to deter two pairs of Plovers within the prescribed area. This has been fairly successful and has data shows the deterred pairs becoming more productive. Ann Canedy and Nina spoke about the mechanics of the HCP and that no Plover is harmed just discouraged from one area into another.
- Nina thanked MBBA, (Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association), for the great tide charts they have provided to Sandy Neck this year. Staff is sending tide charts out when patrons purchase an Off Road Vehicle Permit.
- **Out of order:** Nina announced to the Board that the Town Council has approved the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) for design and funding for moving the lower parking lot at Sandy Neck. The funds of \$225,000 will include revisiting alternatives to the moving of the parking lot.

Old Business:

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- 2. Economic sustainability.** None.
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.**
 1. Tom O'Neill asked if there were any contingency plans for staffing shortage. Nina said that she had been managing the beach for almost twenty years and it always seems to work out. Staff has been reaching out to former employees.
 2. Bill Monroe thanked Kris Clark for the work she did in getting the Town Council to recognize Brennen Lowen for the work he did at Sandy Neck with the bird houses. Bill said the remainder of the bird houses would be put out on the upcoming weekend, either Saturday or Sunday. Sandy Neck staff will assist.
 3. Kris Clark asked Bill if her audio during the Town Council recognition of Brennen Lowen was clear, Bill indicated it was and thanked Kris again for her work. Tom O'Neill thanked both Kris Clark and Bill Monroe for all their work in making the scouting project and subsequent recognition of Brennen Lowen happen.
 4. Kris Clark addressed the Board stating the West Barnstable Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18th and the Town Manager will be the primary speaker. The topic is the comprehensive waste water plan.

New Business: None

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment:

1. Hank Farnham asked when the Board would be able to return to in person meetings. Nina said that town public buildings are not open as of yet. Tom O'Neill said that his guess is that it will be a while.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by roll call vote at 7:42 pm. Bill Monroe, yes; Ann Canedy, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Hank Farnham, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Pictures included in Board meeting presentation on shared screen:

1. Pictures of sand placement on front dune Bodfish.
2. Picture of 2020 Plover nests in HCP.
3. Picture of raking HCP 2021.