



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting June 14, 2010

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 14, 2010 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, Lynn Heslinga, George Muhlebach, Nate King, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham and Ann Canedy
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: none

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Nate King and seconded by Barbara Bell, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the May minutes as printed.

Correspondence:

- Documents were distributed to the Board Members entitled "New Changes in the Open Meeting Law". They are from Ruth Weil, Town Attorney and she asked that all board, committee and commissions review the information. (see attached)

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The gatehouse is 100% staffed around the clock and open for business every day from 8 am to 9 pm. Beach is open until 11 pm.
- The beach is closed a little bit past east of Trail 2 or approximately 1.6 to 1.7 miles because of plover chicks. This is a "decent" amount of beach. Cottage owners can use Trail 2. Still a question of a plover nest around Trail 1 – too soon to tell if this will cause a closure but will know by July 4th. Crow predation is the issue.
- Lots of terns on the beach. Many at Trail 2 which adds to the beach closure. Typical closure line.
- Memorial Day was extremely busy. Busiest to date. At that point there was still 4.5 miles of open beach so very busy with over 700 vehicles on the beach and 130-150 campers. Had to close the beach (briefly) at high tide – but other than that – great weekend. (*Rich French commended the staff for a job well done*).
- The budget past before Town Council. The Sandy Neck operating budget was increased. Additional money needed for printing, vehicles, rubbish and merchandise. This is not money from the general funds – just an increase/redistribution of enterprise line items within the Sandy Neck budget.
- Plover walk tomorrow [Tuesday, June 15th] from 10 am to noon. More information available at <http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/SandyNeckPark/events/eventshome.aspx>

Old Business:

Bathhouse Update

Rich French addressed the Board:

- Progressing along nicely. Going out to bid shortly. Working on electrical issues – nothing wrong – as planned.
- Went to ConComm for final approval for the sidewalk. No issues!

- Counselor Ann Canedy said that this does not have to go back to Town Council as it was originally approved with the understanding that the final location of the sidewalk may have to change slightly.
- After this ConComm hearing all set to go forward. On track for project starting right after Labor Day [September 2010] and April 15, 2011 completion. Reopen for Memorial Day 2011.
- Work will be completed by “the lowest qualified bidder” in accordance with Town’s legal bidding process. The Sandy Neck Board should be the watchdog for this project.
- The Sandy Neck Bathhouse Final Presentation is available on the Sandy Neck website at <http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/SandyNeckPark/SandyNeck%202-24-10.pdf>

Cottage Colony Guest Parking Discussion

- taken out of order – see discussion later in minutes

New Business:

Mark Lee – Cross Fit Cape Cod

- A request was received last month from Mark Lee seeking permission to run a marathon on Sandy Neck. An email was sent back to Mark requesting he present his request to the Board this evening. He did not show up.

Town of Sandwich Fee Discussion

Rich French: Fees and sticker prices in the Town of Barnstable have increased in part to help offset the cost of the bathhouse project. Need to start the dialogue now for any potential increase to Sandwich for FY 12. Explain to Sandwich, that Sandy Neck will have a new, beautiful facility that needs to be paid only by user fees – not general funds.

Nina Coleman: The Town of Sandwich pays a fee every year because we honor their resident beach stickers at Sandy Neck. Presently, the beach is used 1/3 by Barnstable residents, 1/3 by Sandwich residents and 1/3 by daily sticker sales. In FY 10, the Town of Sandwich paid \$38, 633 and in FY 11 they will pay \$39,599. This is a 2.5 % increase. Sandwich residents pay \$30 for their stickers – the same as Barnstable. But, they only have 3 public salt water beaches – including Sandy Neck. Any increase would be for July 2011 or FY12. The Board needs to discuss what amount they feel would be a fair increase. There is no MOU – just a “gentlemen’s agreement” between the Town Manager of Barnstable and the Town Manager of Sandwich.

Rich French: As a Board, need to look at our new bathhouse project and all ways to fund it. We would come up with our recommendation(s) and bring it to our Town Manager.

Nina Coleman: Called Sandwich and found out that last year they sold 5,000 resident stickers equal to \$150,000. Last year there were about 6,000 Sandwich stickered vehicles were recorded - when we checked during business hours. Day trips are \$15 if you do not have any sticker.

Rich French: Board Members are to give their suggestions to Rich and Nina before next meeting.

Cottage Colony Guest Parking Discussion

Rich French: Last month, the Board asked the Chairman to look into off site parking availability at the West Barnstable Railroad Station. This is town owned land governed by the Lombard Trust. He called and was told that the Trustee will not agree to this arrangement. So basically, there is nothing new to report.

AnnCanedy: Reminded everyone that due to the construction at Barnstable Harbor, Sandy Neck lost its dedicated slip and easy access. There is no easy way to get to their cottages. What about if there was an emergency? Need to accommodate as many people as possible.

Nate King: How many guest vehicles are we talking about?

Nina Coleman: Approximately 50-70 vehicles a year. The big weekends are the worse. Some vehicles stay longer than others. Some stay 10 days or more.

Hank Farnham: Perhaps if you want to use Lombard property, a fee should be charged and the revenue goes to the trust?

Rich French: It is more than security. Some of the other reasons for not agreeing to parking on Lombard Trust were: (1) not fair to the other tenants (2) liability issues (3) no police presence (4) vandalism issues and more.

Pete Sampou: What about Meetinghouse Farm? Or the triangular green in front of the farm? Or the Post Office?

Hank Farnham: Behind the fire station would not work – not enough room.

Rich French: For clarification - the Board is trying to help find free guest parking.

Nate King: What about the Community College? The old BWB School?

Rich French: We are looking for a close, safe, free place that is easy to get to from Sandy Neck.

George Muhlebach: Why is this the Board’s job to find free parking? How many times are we going to talk about this? How many meetings?

Nate King: We almost have to have a place for their guests to park.

Nate King: What about Sea Flash Farms? That area is fenced in and lighted.

Rich French: Will look into (1) Meetinghouse Farms (2) The triangular piece in front of the farm (3) Sea Flash Farms and report back at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Wendy Bowles – MBBA representative was not present and sent a note. She is getting married on Sunday and could not attend. Well wishes were sent out to her and Patrick.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem