

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting February 13, 2012

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on February 13, 2012 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Chairman:
Richards French

Vice Chairman:
William Carey

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

Council Liaisons:
June Daley
Ann Canedy

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Nate King, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: June Daley and Ann Canedy.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Diane Lomba, Roger Buck, Jillian Buck, Matthew Buck, George Buck, Lucille Moquin, Pam Buck, Debra Nourse, Doug Moquin, Mary Moquin.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell seconded by Bill Carey, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the January minutes as printed. Nate King abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

Correspondence:

- See attached letter from MBBA regarding their beach cleanup project at Sandy Neck to be held on Sunday April 29th. The Board supported the project and thanked MBBA for all their help.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The current stickers are good until April 15th. The new sticker applications will go out in the mail the first week in March. Gatehouse will be open in April for the season. Fees have gone up this year.
- Currently they are still working on the exterior of the gatehouse.
- Beach looks good – no major erosion problems.
- Dolphin strandings last week. Six were able to be pushed back into water and “saved”.
- The Eagle Scout Project (by Ben Ford) to install solar power for Halfway House usage has been completed.

Old Business:

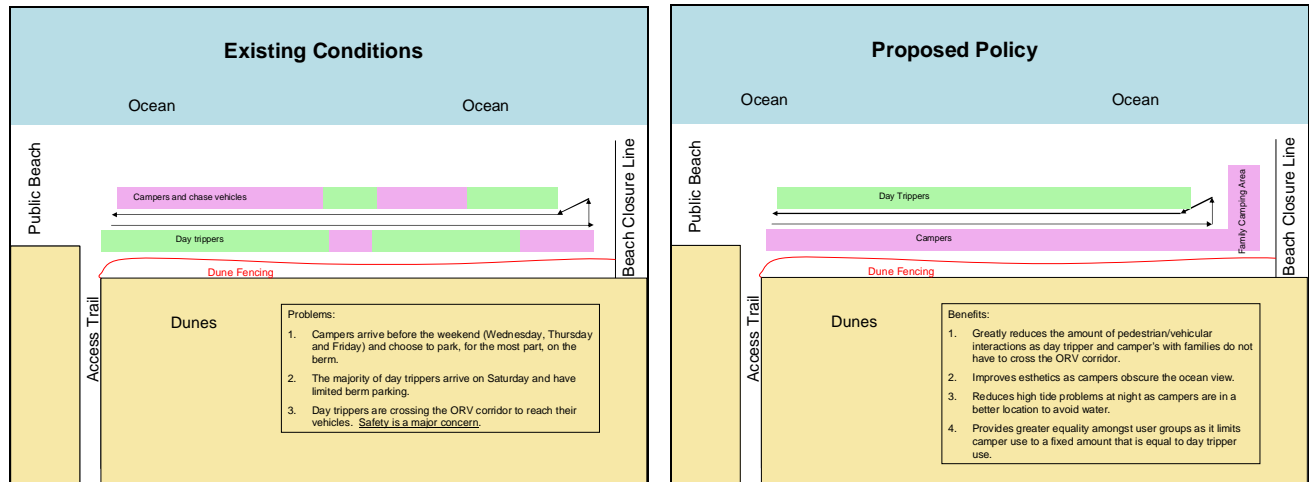
Marsh Trail Repair

Nina Coleman reported that she went before ConComm and received approval for the Trail 5 repair work with the condition from Natural Heritage that the work be completed before April 1st. The Orders of Conditions will be issued on February 14th. Hopefully, the project will be completed in March. Funding is in place. The repair is for two areas by Trail 5 where the water is crossing across the road. Stone will be put in to improve the puddling. This will allow for increased usage without the vehicles getting as wet.

New Business:

ORV parking proposal for 2012

PowerPoint presentation by Nina Coleman. Detailed data was presented. From 2003-2011, ORV permit sales have increased 40%, camping use has increase 55% and day trip use has increased 50%. She is looking for management strategy for the beach.



Nina Coleman explained that with the existing conditions, the campers and day trippers park on both sides of the ORV corridors. Safety is a major concern. She is not in favor of one user group over another but rather looking for what is fair to all. Some of the current problems are (1) Campers arrive before the weekend (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and choose to park, for the most part, on the berm. (2) The majority of day trippers arrive on Saturday and have limited berm parking. (3) Day trippers are crossing the ORV corridor to reach their vehicles. She is proposing that the campers park along the rope and the day trippers park on the berm. Ironically, this was the plan years ago. Hopefully, this will address some of the safety issues. The benefits of this arrangement are (1) Greatly reduces the amount of pedestrian/vehicular interactions as day tripper and camper's with families do not have to cross the ORV corridor. (2) Improves esthetics as campers obscure the ocean view. (3) Reduces high tide problems at night as campers are in a better location to avoid water. (4) Provides greater equality amongst user groups as it limits camper use to a fixed amount that is equal to day tripper use. Plus there will be a Family Camping Area (for families with children) after the ORV corridor where no vehicles will be driving.

All the regulations are all ready in place for this change:

601-4. Required Equipment and Minimum Standards:

Beach parking:

- All vehicles shall be parked parallel to the frontal dune, at least 15' from the toe of the dune, unless otherwise directed by the Sandy Neck Staff.
- Berm parking is permitted. In the absence of an established berm, vehicles will be allowed to park no more than 15-foot north of the established ORV corridor unless otherwise authorized by the Park Manager.
- No parking within posted shorebird nesting areas.
- **The Park Manager or Natural Resource Officers have final discretion on all beach parking.**

The Board discussed this proposal. Safety is the major concern. **June Daley** thought it was a great plan. **Pete Sampou** felt the family camper area is a major benefit of the plan – great idea. **Rich French** stated that some “groups” that used to park together may be split up because of their arrival time. **Nate King** asked if cottage owners would be impacted – and Nina Coleman stated that a corridor would be left open for them. **Bill Carey** said “favorite spots” may be an issue, but he realizes that they must come up with a new plan because of safety issues. There is a clear danger on the beach and must be addressed. This is the start of the discussion. They are looking for feedback prior to initiating any new plan. Other beaches handle this type of overcrowding by turning away vehicles – they are hoping to not have to go that route. The Board is looking for MBBA's thoughts, too. **Diane Lomba** (MBBA) spoke. She is both a day tripper and a camper. On paper, it looks like equal space but the campers take up more space and it looks like the split is more like 2 to 1 for day trippers. She felt there would still be problems with kids crossing over the ORV corridor. She agrees safety is an issue. She likes the idea of first come first serves and so be it if you have to close the beach. She will ask MBBA for more input. **Barbara Bell** said that she see problems with both plans. This plan does not address chase vehicle.

This parking plan was in place many years ago, the Board asked if Doug Kalweit (Natural Resources Supervisor) could be available next month to give his input.

New Business:

Cottage Colony Concerns

1. *Cottage and personal security*

Last summer there were some break-ins. Cottagers were concerned about their property when they are not there in the summer and the cottages are empty.

2. *911 and reverse 911 capability*

This is an issue for those with landlines. Cell phones are different. Cottagers need to work with the fire department as they have jurisdiction. They need owner's names and addresses. According to Jillian Buck, they are working on this issue and will contact the fire department when more people are at their cottages this summer. Steve Heslinga is working on this problem/issue.

3. *Speed of boats at the tip of Sandy Neck*

This was brought up to the Harbormaster and Waterways Committee before. Nina Coleman said this issue was brought up last year and notices were sent to boat owners [when they renewed their permits] asking them to slow down. The charter boats have been asked to be mindful of the speeding issue. One of the cottagers and Rich French both thought better markings and more buoys might help. Cottagers feel boaters (including the larger charter boats) go fast through the mooring field. Nina Coleman reminded folks to call in a problem when it happens not long after the fact.

4. *Posting of scientific data on website*

5. *Preservation of Lucille Moquin's Sandy Neck cottage colony historical records and photographs*

Ann Canedy is working with Pat Anderson and Lucy Loomis. Some work is done but the majority was put on hold due to health reasons. After tonight, Ann Canedy hopes to start the work again. Lucy Loomis is working to digitalize the photos, newspaper articles, and scrapbooks belonging to Lucille Moquin and store the information at the Sturgis Library.

Public Comment:

- Both Lucille Moquin and Jillian Buck thanked Nina Coleman for the work that has been done along the marsh trail.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem



MASSACHUSETTS BEACH BUGGY ASSOCIATION, INC.



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Affiliations
Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council
Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Town of Barnstable
Barnstable Department of Natural Resources
1189 Phinneys Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

February 1, 2012



Attn: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Ranger

Dear Nina,

We are currently scheduling our beach projects for 2012 and would like to extend our offer of assistance for work needed to prepare your beach for the upcoming season.

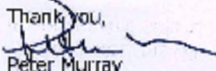
I have set aside the date of Sunday April 29th for the 2012 Sandy Neck Beach Conservation Project. We would like your permission to arrive on Saturday afternoon and use a portion of the lower parking lot as an overnight holding area.

I have been asking all of the beach managers to supply the trash bags for the projects, in the past we got the heavy yellow bags from the state, but they are almost impossible to get these days.

We do conservation projects on many of the beaches from the New Hampshire state line to the Rhode Island border. We plant beach grass, put up fence for erosion control, and pick up trash.

Please contact me with your work needs so I may inform our volunteers, we are willing and able to help in any way we can.

I have enclosed a stamped self-addressed post card for your response.

Thank you,

Peter Murray
Conservation Chairman
PO Box 151
Bridgewater, MA 02324

petemurray@control7.com
508-944-4447

Cc: Dan Horn, Department of Natural Resources
Rick French, Chairperson, Sandy Neck Board
Diane Lomba, MBBA Beach Rep.

Visit our website at: www.mbba.net