



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Centerville, MA 02632

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting September 08, 2014

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 September 08, 2014 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: George Muhlebach, Tom O'Neil, Bill Carey, Rich French, Pete Sampou, Lynne Heslinga and Nate King.
- Board Member absent: none
- Staff: Chris Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaisons present: Phil Wallace and Anne Canedy.
- Public: Wendy Paquette, Diane Lomba, Kylie Palomba, Bob Lovell, and Pete Thomas.

Act on Minutes:

- On a motion by Nate King and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the August minutes as printed. Lynne Heslinga abstained.

Correspondence:

- Letter from Susan Leach (Attachment #1).
- Letter from Gail Amaral (Attachment #2).
- Letter from Shirlee Oakley, RE: Annual Report – due by September 30, 2014 (Attachment #3).

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- As of Friday, August 22nd. The ORV beach now open 4.5 miles. The front beach is open to Trail 6.
- Gatehouse hours are Sunday - Thursday 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Friday - Saturday 9:00AM to 9:00PM.
- Labor Day weekend was very busy.
- Phragmites removal project has started (again) for this season.
- Diamondback Terrapin Turtles are hatching. Cottagers beware.
- On Thursday, August 28th, there was a "fire drill" at the cottage colony. Response over water and on land from WBFD, BFD, and Sandy Neck Staff. Very helpful in case there was a "real" fire.
- Hired full time Division Assistant, Donna Bragg. Looking forward to having a year-round position.
- 911 emergency responses by sandy Neck Staff from May to present:
 - ❖ 3 medical emergencies
 - ❖ 1 near drowning
 - ❖ 4 PD assists (not counting detail police presence and help)
 - ❖ 4 boat rescues
 - ❖ 5 missing children
 - ❖ One camper fire
- For the number of people on Sandy Neck, there are "not as many" emergencies as there could be. Very pleased with Sandy Neck Staff involvement.
- There were no staff injuries.

Old Business:

Election of Sandy Neck Board Officers

- A motion was made by Nate King and seconded by Lynne Heslinga nominating Rich French as Chairman and Thomas O'Neill as Vice Chairman. **Vote:** All voted yes.

New Business:

Proposed fee changes (Attachment #4)

Rich French explained that these proposed fee changes are not for the Bodfish Beach but rather the ORV beach. He reviewed that the Board has been talking about these gradual increases for quite some time. Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- She looked over the discussion with the Board over the last three years. Last year, the Board wanted the Sandwich stickers to be the same price as the Non-Resident sticker thereby eliminating the Sandwich sticker. There would be a Resident and a Non –Resident only. Only two categories – not three. But that was a big increase for Sandwich. So last year it went from \$125 to \$145 and next year it will go up to \$170. So all Non-Residents will pay the same amount.
- Off season rates would be Resident (\$25) and Non-resident (\$50) – eliminating the off season Sandwich sticker.
- The other proposed change is for over night camping. In 2012, the Board wanted the price to increase from \$5 to \$10 for Residents and \$10 to \$20 for Non-Residents. But it was agreed the increase would be more gradual with the end result being \$10 and \$20. So she is proposing the new fee to be \$10 for Residents, \$20 for Non-Residents and \$10 for Chase Vehicles.

There was a discussion among the Board Members. These are some highlights:

- Agreed this would make it more equitable as there would be resident and non-residents only.
- Why don't we reinstate the day tripper fee? Don't day trippers cause more problems and cost more staff time? (Nina Coleman explained that day trippers drive the entire revenue stream. This should not be a day tripper vs. camper issue.)
- Sandy Neck is the only beach open now so we can not compare other ORV beaches and their fees.
- Money is needed in the budget for sand replenishment.

The public commented on these proposed changes:

- Diane Lomba spoke: Why are only the campers and the chase fees increasing so much? How about a day vehicle fee? Have you ever considered a "per person fee" for the number of people in a vehicle? Nauset Beach and Race Point Beach ORV sticker prices are higher than Sandy Neck but they do not have an overnight camping fee like Sandy Neck.
- Bob Lovell spoke: It was a great season. Great job with staff. It is getting to be too expensive for campers and chase vehicles. The day trippers should be charged a day fee. The only difference between day trippers and overnight vehicles is the day trippers must exit the beach at 11 pm for six hours. He listed complaints about day trippers. Raise the yearly sticker fee (slightly) not the daily overnight fee.
- Peter Thomas spoke: Staff was great this year and the beach was managed nicely. He does not mind paying the increase fees but feels the campers are paying for the day trippers and their fee should increase too. Funds for beach nourishment could be generated by the day trippers.
- Wendy Paquette spoke: Also agrees that there should be a day tripper fee. The day trippers use the beach three times more (based on daily trips) than campers. Should the off season price be raised?

The Board Members continued their discussion. These are some highlights:

- Is the beach utilized half and half by day trippers and campers?
- On crowded weekends when the beach is full, if people are turned away, it is usually the day trippers because the campers are already on the beach.
- Should day trippers be charged \$5 on weekends only?
- Should all ORV sticker fees be raised and then you would not have to raise nightly fees.
- We are not punishing a certain group. We are looking at the whole picture.
- Should there be a day fee for everyone – whether or not you stay over night wouldn't matter.
- The campers and MBBA folks are the "eyes and ears" of the beach.

- Maybe we shouldn't raise the fee for campers but instead make a day tripper fee like before.
- Or because the Board has been considering the fee increase to go up to \$10 and \$20 for the last three years, maybe we should do that now and next time if there needs to be an increase, do not look toward the campers.
- Should Mark Milne come to a meeting to discuss finances?

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The off season sales do not generate a lot of money. They do not sell that many and there are not the same services available such as the bathhouse, the concession stand, etc.
- Fees must be decided now because the Town Manager fee hearing is in November not December.
- The Board may have veered off course. These fee increases were the direction of the Board for the last three years. Why are you changing it now? The initial discussion [starting in 2012] was to have a big increase but then it was decided to increase gradually. That was the plan.
- The Board should vote on the other increase (elimination of Sandwich sticker and now just have a Resident and Non-Resident) so that information can be given to the Town Manager for his November Fee Hearing. The camper proposal can be discussed next month.
- Remember, there will be feedback from every user group that sees an increase. Next month, it could be day trippers. The \$2 increase in overnight camper is only going to generate approximately \$16,000. But the change from Sandwich to Non-resident ORV stickers will generate around \$31,000 so that is important to vote on tonight.
- Time is of the essence. If you do not vote, you may miss the deadline and there will be no increase in any fees at all this year.
- Rechanging the fee structures is not a positive thing at this point. Be cautious.

A **motion** was made by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou to support Sandy Neck Park Manager Nina Coleman's recommendation of changing the Sandwich Resident Sticker to a Non-Resident Sticker. All Non-Resident stickers would be \$170. The Sandwich off season sticker would be eliminated/changed to an offseason Non-Resident sticker and would be \$50. Other proposed fee increases are tabled until next month. **Vote:** All voted yes except George Muhlebach would voted no.

The Board tabled the rest of the discussion & potential vote for increasing the camper overnight fee until the next month and would like to know:

- The number of day vehicles and the number of chase vehicles and the number of campers.
- How much money would be generated if there was a \$5 daily access fee for all users? How would this figure compare to Nina's proposal of raising the camping fees to \$10 and \$20.
- How else could revenue be made up to increase the revenue gap? What else could be done?

Public Comment:

- Pete Thomas asked the Board about next month's meeting and time frame. Are we rushing? Is it being hurried? ***Nina Coleman clarified.*** The budget schedule/time frame is the same. The Town Manager's fee hearing (for all fees within the entire Town) has been moved up from December to November to allow for any proposed fee increases to be put in place in January 2015.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment
#1

August 2014

To The Town of Barnstable:

I know how often we receive complaints. This is not a Complaint but a Compliment to the Town of Barnstable for the outstanding job you have done to the Sandy Neck Beach. I do not get there but perhaps once per year. I recently had that opportunity and was very pleased with all the improvements -

Just wanted to say!

Thank you very much, I am Grateful -

Sincerely,

Susan Leach



Dear Sandy Neck Board,

First let me apologize for not attending the meeting. I have fractured my foot and cannot make it down there.

My name is Gail Amaral. My husband and many of our friend's camp and enjoy our time on Sandy Neck very much. I would like to address the board and Nina regarding the proposed fee increase on the campers at the beach for 2015. It is my opinion that it is not fair to put the fiscal burden of the beach solely on the campers. I am not trying to play the camper vs. the day trippers; however I don't believe we (the campers) should pay an increase when we pay a daily fee for our vehicles already and have already absorbed one increase this year. I would be interested to know the count of camper & chase vs. day trippers. Just my opinion but I do believe that is an un-tapped resource.

I personally know of 4 campers who have chosen not to buy stickers for 2014 due to the first increase, what will happen next year? You may have no choice but to spread the burden if you lose a lot of sticker revenue from us. I can't speak for my friends but I personally will rethink my sticker purchase for next year as this year's cost has already become a burden of mine.

Sincerely, Gail Amaral

Taunton, MA



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Thomas K. Lynch, Town Manager

August 6, 2014

Dear Department Head:

It is time once again for your submission for our Town of Barnstable Annual Report. The Fiscal 2014 Annual Report will cover activity from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Please read the following instructions carefully. *Reminder: All departments are limited to a two page maximum departmental report. Boards, committees and commissions are limited to one page.*

Your report must include the following:

- **Mission Statement / Tag Line**
Please review the mission statement and tagline for your department/division on the following page. If revisions are desired, please include those in this year's report.
- **Major accomplishments**
- **Status on performance**
- **Major projects or initiatives**
- **Graphs** (if appropriate)
- **Photos:** Send photos (.jpg) in a separate file. *Photos taken within the report's fiscal year are preferred.*
- **Where to go for more information:** point person, contact information, website
- **Department Head headshot**
Please include a current headshot (head-and-shoulders) shot of yourself. If you do not have a current headshot, or if you would like to update the photo we have on file, please contact Sarah Colvin Nelson at sarah.colvin@town.barnstable.ma.us or at 508-862-4763 to make arrangements to have a new one taken.

Email reports to Shirlee.oakley@town.barnstable.ma.us in regular page format using Microsoft Word. Be sure to identify the file using the name of your department/division, in the following format: AR2014_Department (for Town Manager, use AR2014_TownManager, for DPW, use AR2014_PublicWorks)

Reports are due by September 30, 2014

Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phone at 508-862-4604.

Shirlee Oakley
Confidential Assistant
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