



## TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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### Sandy Neck Board Meeting June 08, 2015

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 June 08, 2015 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Rich French.

#### Roll Call:

- Board Members present: George Muhlebach, Pete Sampou, Lynne Heslinga, Nate King, Tom O'Neill, Bill Carey and Rich French.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaisons absent: Phil Wallace and Ann Canedy.
- Public: Wendy Paquette and Diane Lomba.

#### Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Pete Sampou and seconded by Bill Carey, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the March minutes as printed. Lynne Heslinga abstained as she was not present at that meeting.
- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the April minutes as printed. Lynne Heslinga abstained as she was not present at that meeting.
- On a **motion** by Pete Sampou and seconded by Nate King, the Sandy Neck Board unanimously voted to approve the May minutes as printed.

#### Correspondence:

- Information was sent to the Board before the meeting (attached at the end of these minutes).
  - ❖ The first article is entitled "South Cape Beach Renovation Takes Flak" about South Cape Barrier Dune from the Enterprise Newspaper. It is about coir bag replenishment for the beach. Pete Sampou indicated it is a temporary fix. This is an attempt to protect the parking lot (their only lot) and is the only town access to the beach.
  - ❖ The other article was written by James Kinsella entitled "Sandwich's Off-Road Discount At Sandy Neck Beach Ends."
    - The article reiterated that Sandwich Residents no longer gets a "discount" at Sandy Neck ORV Beach - they are non residents and pay \$170.
    - The article also discussed the idea that Bourne residents could potentially be allowed to purchase Sandwich beach stickers at the in-town residential rates in exchange for an agreement that allow would Sandwich residents to buy shellfish stickers at Bourne lower residential rates. The Board was concerned that this could/would allow Bourne residents the ability to use Bodfish Beach [only] under these new stickers.
    - The Board will continue to look at the option of no longer honoring the Sandwich Resident Parking Sticker. This issue has been discussed for many years and "more political" in nature between the Barnstable Town Manager and the Sandwich Town Manager. Sandwich pays Barnstable approximately \$44,000/year to compensate the Town of Barnstable for honoring Sandwich stickers. The Sandy Neck Board has been asking the Town Manager to look at the option of not honoring their sticker - not getting the \$44,000 - and instead Sandy Neck selling a Sandy Neck Sandwich Residents only parking pass good only at Sandy Neck.
    - Pete Sampou suggested that since this is a "political agreement" perhaps the Sandy Neck Enterprise Account can be subsidized by the Town since they made this agreement with Sandwich.
    - Bill Carey suggested everybody should be charged the same for the use of Bodfish Beach. Either Barnstable Resident or Nonresident only. We need to be transparent.

Rich French will write a letter from the Board requesting Assistant Town Manager Mark Ells come to the next meeting to discuss the relationship between Sandwich and Barnstable with regard to Bodfish Beach. Also, the Board asked if Financial Director Mark Milne could also attend.

**Also under Correspondence Rich French discussed an email from Town Councilor Ann Canedy with regard to the Town purchasing 14 acres of land at Sandy Neck.**

- ❖ The Town Council may vote on approving CPA funding for 14 acres of land on Sandy Neck. Her email states "...the need to protect a parcel that appears to be "unbuildable" and the question of whether, if purchased, the parcel should be "conservation" and protected with a CR or if the parcel should be designated "municipal" and purchased with general funds rather than CPA funds...." She is looking for support from the Board for the purchase of this property with a "conservation" designation.
- ❖ Tom O'Neill stressed the land must be protected in perpetuity.
- ❖ Bill Carey asked if the land could be used for anything other than conservation use. Pete Sampou replied "yes", anything is possible.
- ❖ Nina Coleman believes the land should stay as it is now.
- ❖ Bill Carey was concerned about the cottage colony not being able to use the land but Nina Coleman told him the trail is not part of this discussion.
- ❖ Tom O'Neill stressed an outside person could buy this land and access from the ocean. This is an important piece of property that the Town should buy with a conservation restriction.
- ❖ The site could potentially be used for any number of things such as weddings, eco tours, windmills, solar arrays, and such.
- ❖ Per a court ruling - the site will be sold. The question is "should the town own it and should a restriction be placed on the land."

A motion was made by Peter Sampou and seconded by Nate King, that the Sandy Neck Board make a recommendation to the Town Council that the Town purchase this property [on "Little Neck" close to Beach Point/map 339, parcel 002] as soon as possible, and a conservation restriction be placed on the land with details to be work out upon purchase.

Discussion: Bill Carey wanted to make sure it stays pristine and no outside use be allowed.

All members voted YES

- ❖ Tom O'Neill will represent the Board at the Town Council Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff Report:**

***Nina Coleman addressed the Board:***

- The gatehouse will soon be open daily from 8 am to 9 pm. In a few weeks (June 20<sup>th</sup>) will start charging daily for Bodfish Beach.
- Memorial Day weekend was very busy.
- Plovers – currently 39 nests. Beach closed to Trail 2 leaving 1.5 miles of beach open to campers. Still too early to discuss July 4<sup>th</sup>. One nest (Nest #37) between Trail 1 and Trail 2 but too early to tell because of coyote predation.
- Big tern colony this year.
- Two or three osprey chicks are present in the osprey nest at Sandy Neck.
- Diamondback Terrapin Turtles are crawling now and the Headstart Turtles are being released now. There is a Terrapin walk scheduled for July.

**Old Business:**

***Update from the Erosion Solutions Subcommittee:***

- Nina Coleman is applying for a CZM Grant. This money will help fund a professional consultant to come to this workshop and present alternative analysis with different options. They will also gather the Boards, the public and any professional comments. This professional will then apply for the design permits and implementation permits.
- A workshop will be held at a date to be determined soon.

**Old Business:**

***Update from the Revenue Ideas Solutions:***

*Please look at this list and we can continue to discuss:*

**Sandy Neck Revenue Ideas Board Discussion REV June 3, 2015**

**DRAFT**

**Fees:**

**Fees for walk ins; (done by CCNS?)**

- Higher parking fees on weekends (\$25) and holidays (\$30) helps defray extra staff costs
- Day tripper discount books could be purchased in advance
- Off season charge \$5 per car (one month on each side of summer opening term)
- Protect the each surcharge to create pool of money for sand replenishment.
- Change for the parking lot from 3:30-5pm (suggesting \$5). DO we keep lifeguards?
- Increase Special Permit fees (we do not charge non-profits)
- Horse passes need to be discussed because we have people renting horses for \$250 per ride and we get \$30 of revenue a year for each horse.
- Charge a lot more for wedding and provide a few more services like tents (\$300-\$500 per wedding)

**Merchandise:**

- Sell at bathhouse snack bar; give cut to vendor
- Establish on line purchase capability on SNK website; utilize mailing list to market merchandise

**Campers:**

- Mid-week lower camping rates
- Sell camper nights in advance; discount booklet
- Frequent camper discounts

**Other Ideas:**

- Hosting 5k run  
Exploit mailing list? Donations, special fundraising programs; solicit families to support program costs, e.g., turtles
- Sell trail names to large donors
- Benches sponsored for fee
- Use volunteers for peak summer support weekends/holidays

**Public Comment:**

- none

**Adjournment:**

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

## Sandwich's Off-Road Discount At Sandy Neck Beach Ends

JAMES KINSELLA | Posted: Thursday, June 4, 2015 10:00 pm



Todd Nickerson of Barnstable airs up after four wheeling Sandy Neck Beach on Wednesday afternoon.

Christopher M. Wilcox has had an off-road permit sticker for Sandy Neck Beach Park from the Town of Barnstable since he first got his driver's license.

And because he has been a resident of Sandwich, Mr. Wilcox, 42, received a discount off the non-resident sticker fee charged by Barnstable.

But the discount has come to an end. This year, Sandwich residents are being charged the same annual ORV (off-road vehicle) fee as any other non-Barnstable residents: \$170.

"It's pretty disappointing," Mr. Wilcox said yesterday, Thursday, June 4. "We've been going there for so long. They're trying to squeeze every last dime out of us."

But Sandy Neck manager Nina Z. Coleman said Wednesday, June 3, that the park is facing costs higher than \$1 million to address the same erosion issue that faces Sandwich's beaches along Cape Cod Bay—costs that Sandwich is not helping to fund.

Ms. Coleman also said that Sandy Neck functions as an enterprise fund, an entity that must balance costs against revenue.

In fact, Ms. Coleman said, Barnstable has been providing an ORV discount to Sandwich residents for years without any formal agreement with Sandwich to do so.

Just how, why, and when the discount started was not clear this week. On Wednesday, Ms. Coleman said that she suspected the discount began when the fee was far more nominal and has stayed in place even as the annual fee has increased.

But geography cannot be ruled out as a likely contributor.

The access road for Sandy Neck Beach Park starts in Sandwich, running north from Route 6A before it crosses the Barnstable town line on its way to the park gatehouse, beach parking lot, bathhouse, and the access to off-road trails.

And just where Sandy Neck physically begins also is unclear. Ms. Coleman said a small piece of conservation land in Sandwich might be considered part of Sandy Neck.

But she said the rest of Sandy Neck, a 7-mile-long barrier beach extending to the east, is in the Town of Barnstable.

In any case, the Sandy Neck advisory board did not bring the Sandwich ORV fee into line with that paid by residents of other non-Barnstable towns in one fell swoop, but reduced the size of the discount in 2014 before eliminating the discount this year.

In 2013, according to Barnstable's Marine and Environmental Affairs Division, Sandwich residents paid \$125 for a Sandy Neck ORV sticker, \$25 less than residents of other non-Barnstable towns.

Last year, the division stated, Sandwich residents paid \$145 for a sticker, compared to \$160 for residents of other non-Barnstable towns.

This year, residents of all non-Barnstable towns are paying \$170 for a sticker. Barnstable residents are paying \$85, the same as last year.

In recent years, Sandwich residents have accounted for a significant share of annual Sandy Neck ORV permit buyers, according to a report prepared by Ms. Coleman.

Last year, Barnstable residents purchased 1,566 annual ORV permits, Sandwich residents bought 932 permits, and residents of other non-Barnstable towns purchased 1,389.

A special relationship does continue to exist between Sandwich and Barnstable when it comes to the beach parking lot on Sandy Neck.

The annual beach sticker available to Sandwich residents gives them access to Sandy Neck as well as Sandwich's own beaches. The sticker costs \$35.

"Sandwich has had a verbal agreement with Barnstable dating back to the 1950s where we pay them an amount to allow our resident stickers to be used at Sandy Neck," Sandwich town manager George H. (Bud) Dunham stated Wednesday.

"This agreement was increased substantially in the 2000s and increases by 2.5 percent every year," Mr. Dunham stated.

For the fiscal year starting July 1, Sandwich's payment will be \$44,804.

In another development, Bourne town officials recently proposed that residents of that town be allowed to purchase Sandwich beach stickers at the in-town residential rate.

The proposal was framed as a quid pro quo for the agreement that allows Sandwich residents to buy shellfish stickers in that town at the Bourne residential rate.

Given that Sandwich's beaches have been wracked by erosion, the proposal mystified some—until the possibility of annual access to the Sandy Neck Beach parking lot was considered.

On Wednesday, however, Ms. Coleman said Bourne residents should not expect annual access to Sandy Neck simply through a Sandwich residential beach sticker. Any access question would have to be addressed by Barnstable and Bourne officials, she said.

In any case, Ms. Coleman said Barnstable appreciates the enthusiasm that Sandwich residents show for Sandy Neck.

"We welcome Sandwich people," she said. "They're a big part of Sandy Neck, both at the beach and off the road. We don't want to drive anyone away."

Also, as far as Ms. Coleman can tell, the loss of the Sandwich discount is not deterring ORV owners from that town from Sandy Neck.

"They're complaining," she said, "but they're buying the stickers."



## South Cape Beach Renovation Takes Flak

**South Cape Beach Renovation Takes Flak** SAM HOUGHTON |

Some residents are not happy about the dune system that was recently built at South Cape Beach, saying it eliminates a popular view of the beach from the town parking lot. Watching fishermen while eating a picnic or people-watching from the comfort of a car seat are no longer possible.

The dune, however, is critical for the preservation of the parking lot and natural habitat around the beach, say those who approved and constructed the “soft solution.” If no dune was created, the parking lot could have eroded away and because of state regulations, the town would not have been able to rebuild the parking lot at its current location, said Catherine E. Laurent, department of public works director.

Voters at October Town Meeting in 2013 approved an expenditure of \$265,000 to make permanent repairs to the parking lot and dune area after Superstorm Sandy. The October 2012 storm left the parking lot badly damaged; at least 10 feet of the seaward-facing parking spaces tumbled onto the shoreline, the Enterprise reported at the time.

The area received temporary repairs until last fall, when the dune was installed; and last month, when three wooden access points were added over the dunes.

Berry A. Sahl of Chicory Circle voiced his frustration during the public comment period at the board of selectmen meeting on Monday, June 3.

“They took one of the most beautiful beaches of Mashpee, and they ruined it,” he said.

He said that seniors and handicapped people can no longer access the beach. He also said that viewing the beach from the parking lot is no longer possible. “Are selectmen going to do anything before the summer?” he asked. “It’s an accident waiting to happen,” he said of the steep grade of the stairs at the new access points.

Mr. Sahl said that there must be other ways of stopping waves from damaging the parking lot and protecting the area from storms rather than installing the dune.

Others in the community have voiced their dissatisfaction to local newspapers. “It’s horrible,” said Carol J. Dickson, a resident of Old Great Neck Road. She said she has been going to the beach for 50 years. “I loved to

sit down there and read a book and people watch,” she said. “You can’t do that anymore.”

Marilyn Desrosiers Marcelli of Melissa Avenue voiced her frustrations via a letter in the Enterprise May 29. South Cape Beach, she wrote, “is no longer the beautiful place that it was.”

Andrew R. McManus, conservation agent for the town, said that the conservation commission approved the design of the dune as a means to stop the consistent damage to the parking lot due to natural erosion and storm surges. The parking lot has suffered yearly abuse and while the town has made temporary fixes, the dune is a more permanent solution, he said.

During meetings with the state to address the constant erosion, state Department of Conservation and Recreation representatives suggested the town rebuild the lot on the other side of a salt marsh that abuts the current parking lot, further away from the beach. But Mr. McManus said that the close proximity the parking lot offers is a “huge asset” to the town.

The recently built dune is considered a “sacrificial dune” that will give the town time to reinforce it with sand in the aftermath of storms, he said. Sand erodes from the dune instead of from underneath the edge of the parking lot. Inside the dune is a fiber roll that once revealed indicates to the town it is time to add sand, Mr. McManus said.

The only other option would be to do nothing, Ms. Laurent said. A storm like Sandy or Hurricane Irene would continue to erode the parking lot and because the lot sits on a barrier beach, state regulations are strict and the town would not be permitted to rebuild the eroded parts, she said.

Ms. Laurent said there is a graded path around the dune at the far right of the parking lot for patrons who have difficulty climbing stairs. She said signs informing patrons of the path were supposed to be installed Thursday, June 4. She also said there are plans to build a boardwalk before next summer, possibly during this beach season.

In addition, Ms. Laurent said, the recreation department offers a beach-accessible wheelchair to patrons.

The construction of the dune, Ms. Laurent said, went through the proper permitting process. In her letter, Ms. Marcelli had asked if the town received permits before they built it.