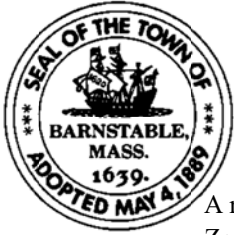


TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

1189 Phinney's Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

Tel: 508-790-6272
Fax: 508-790-6275



Sandy Neck Board Meeting March, 8 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.*

Chairman:
Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:
Peter Sampou

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

CouncilLiaison:
Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable PD
Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

- Board Members remotely present: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Bill Monroe, Ann Canedy, Joe O'Brien, and Hank Farnham.
- Board Members absent: Bill Carey.
- Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, and Natural Resource Officer, Sean Kortis.
- Staff Member absent: None.
- Council Liaisons present: Gordon Starr and Kris Clark.
- Barnstable Police Liaison: Chris Kelsey.
- Public: Wendy Paquette, Paul Berger Darren Wilbur, Rich French, and Jennifer Daly.
- Guest Speaker: None.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Bill Monroe and seconded by Joe O'Brien, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as printed.

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

Correspondence: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board.

- Tom emailed the Annual Sandy Neck report to Board Members.
- Tom emailed an article regarding global sand shortage and lack of sand availability.
- Kris Clark had corresponded with the Town Council and Brennen Lowen will be formally recognized by the Town Council on March 18, 2021 for the work he has done on Sandy Neck. Bill Monroe confirmed the date of the recognition. Tom thanked Kris Clark.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- Gatehouse continues to remain closed. Staff is busy processing 2021 ORV permits.
- We are beginning to hire staff. Seasonal positions are on the Town website, the applications are online.
- A reminder that we are still in March and the Off Road Vehicle Beach closes at 4 pm. Beach opens at 8 am.
- Snowy Owls are still at Sandy Neck. They are located far out on the beach. Please remain at a respectful distance.
- Plovers are expected any day. Plovers return in March. The protective fencing goes up the beginning of April. Generally the first beach closures take place in the beginning of June.
- We are expecting Ospreys to come in soon.

- There were two Nor'easter storms this winter causing erosion to the front dune. There needed to be placement of sand on the dune in front of the parking lot in order to make sure the infrastructure is protected. Nina went before the Town Council for an emergency appropriation of funds. The emergency appropriation was granted. As soon as the funds became available, a quote request went out. Robert B Our won the bid. Robert B Our will begin the placement of the sand soon. 3,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed in front of the parking lot. Went before the Town Council there was an opportunity to discuss long term solutions for Sandy Neck. About a half a million dollars has been spent on sand over the last eight years, averaging sixty-one thousand dollars a year. Good discussion regarding long term solutions.
- Off Road Vehicle permit renewal information. All 2020 permit holders should have received an email with a link to renew their permit for 2021. They can go into the link for the renewal application and make some edits of their information and upload required documents. Once we approve the application, they will receive a link to pay. Anyone not comfortable with this can print out the application, provide the required documentation and mail it in or drop off at the Sandy Neck drop box located at the end of the Gatehouse. Those folks who didn't have a permit last year, there is an application on the Sandy Neck website.
- Darren Wilbur from Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association asked Nina if there would be an opportunity to help clean the beach this year. Nina responded that although we could not have organized groups, Sandy Neck would welcome individuals who wish to clean the beach. Not able to do a group fencing project.

Old Business:

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- 2. Economic sustainability.** None.
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.**
 1. Bill Monroe addressed the Board. The nesting boxes for the swallows are ready to put out and he is looking for guidance for when the boxes can be placed at the Halfway House. Natural Resource Officer, Sean Kortis replied stating that they would need to be out before the start of May and that he would coordinate via email with placement dates.
 2. Bill Monroe said he had been in contact with Natural Resource Officer, Hannah Lawrence regarding bird house kits for the Junior Rangers to take home and make this summer. Also there was a request for wooden trash receptacles for the Great Marsh Trail. Bill said that the scouts were ready to proceed. NRO Lawrence also requested a change of placement for the other nesting boxes. Sandy Neck Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg responded that the preferred placement would be at the Great Marsh by the Gatehouse in order to establish a swallow colony there. It was agreed upon that would be a good location.

New Business:

Current Covid restrictions on Sandy Neck: *Nina Coleman addressed the Board.*

- 1.** Covid restrictions on Sandy Neck and where we are right now. Spring opening of Sandy Neck is April 1st and we need to have a safety plan in place where we are meeting state Covid requirement guidelines and helping staff keep the public in Covid compliance. We want to continue to offer the public this important outdoor activity as Covid has pushed people outdoors for recreation. This has been a lesson learned over the last year of Covid. We do need to provide this activity while still adhering to the Covid guidelines.
- 2.** Nina presented the latest update on Covid restrictions put out by the Governor's office.
- 3.** Kris Clark addressed the Board asking Nina if the latest Covid guidelines would be posted on the website. Nina indicated it would.
- 4.** Ann Canedy addressed the Board regarding the latest information the Center for Disease Control had put out. Discussion followed.
- 5.** Rich French addressed the Board stating that using the Sandy Neck App would be a good way to get the message out. Nina told the Board that the information would be placed in several places for the public to read.

6. Tom O'Neill asked if the Town Manager had to approve information regarding Covid based on the Governor's office. Nina replied that Sandy Neck protocols were based on both the direction from the Governor's office as well as the Town Manager.
7. Nina addressed the Board stating that last year, based on the Governor's guidelines and through the Town Manager, in order to keep crowd sizes down, the curfew on the beach was 9 pm and there were no campfires.
8. Restrictions were loosened up and by the end of the summer, campfires were allowed.
9. This year, Nina stated that Sandy Neck was open to the Board discussion regarding campfires and curfew.
10. Campfires would have to be well managed and per Covid restrictions, group sizes would have to be kept down. We would have to be very mindful of campfires in the public area as that situation can quickly get out of hand regarding group sizes. Discussion followed.
11. Campfires on the public beach were shut down last year due to crowd sizes. This year a smaller number of public permits will be issued to help keep the numbers of people in check. Discussion followed. Fires are not allowed in the life guarded area or west of that area. Public fires are permitted in the adjoining Off Road Beach.
12. There was a discussion regarding smoldering campfires on the beach and the dangers of someone getting burned the next day. Natural Resource Officer, Sean Kortis addressed the Board regarding medical situations due to campfires.
13. There was a discussion regarding the campfire fee hike in order to offset staff costs in managing and cleanup. The discussion resulted in the Board and Nina agreeing to see how things go regarding campfires with the provision that should it get out of hand, Sandy Neck Management would have the ability to shut campfires down.
14. Discussion regarding curfew. 2020 curfew was 9 pm. There were no issues when the curfew was 9 pm and no alcohol related issues. With the potential of having campfires on the beach in 2021, the issue may be that there is not enough time to have campfires that begin at 7 pm and curfew being 9 pm. Joe O'Brien addressed the Board, suggesting that we compromise and have curfew at 10 pm. There was a discussion and it was determined to be a good idea.
15. Wendy Paquette addressed the Board regarding those people on the beach who do follow the rules should not be punished and those who don't follow the rules should be kicked off the beach.
16. Recommendations from Sandy Neck Staff and Sandy Neck Board will be presented to the Town Manager. The Town Manager will have the final say. This is creating the protocol as we enter the 2021 season.
17. Jennifer Daly addressed the Board asking about the camper reservation system. Nina responded that there will be a system hopefully through Mooring Info and that the reservation system is being developed.
18. Barnstable Police Liaison, Chris Kelsey addressed the Board regarding potential change in curfew to 10 pm, stating that from the public safety side it would work well and he agreed to the suggestion. From the police side the 10 pm curfew would work better for emergency responses and staffing issues.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: *Kris Clark addressed the Board.*

1. Kris asked that everyone pay attention to the Town Council meeting on March 18th as that is when Brennen Lowen will be recognized for his bird house project at Sandy Neck.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem