



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting

November 8, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on November 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. Zoom information can be found on the Sandy Neck Agenda.*

Chairman:

Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:

Peter Sampou

BoardMembers:

Ann Canedy
William Carey
William Monroe
Joe O'Brien
Maureen Piccione

CouncilLiaison:

Gordon Starr Kris
Clark

BarnstablePD

Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members remotely present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Maureen Piccione, Pete Sampou, Ann Canedy (late), and Joe O'Brien.

Board Members absent: Bill Carey.

Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor, Natural Resource Officer, Hannah Lawrence.

Staff Member absent: None.

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Patrick Bresette, Paul Berger, and Darren Wilbur

Guest Speaker: None

Act on Minutes:

On a **motion** by Pete Sampou and seconded by Bill Monroe, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the October 18, 2021 minutes. Pete Sampou, aye; Bill Monroe, aye; Maureen Piccione, aye; Joe O'Brien, aye; Tom O'Neill, aye.

Public Comment:

None.

Correspondence:

Tom O'Neill addressed the Board.

Tom received a phone call from a neighbor whose daughter was bitten by a dog while she was walking down the ramp that goes to the beach on the left side (west) on the public beach. It was a relatively serious bite. Two dogs leapt on her as she was heading down to the beach. Both dogs were leashed. Report was taken by Natural Resource Officer Chris Nappi. Sandy Neck Park Manager was reviewing the facts of the case and would make a determination regarding the dog that bit the woman.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

Nina presented a Power Point presentation. Included in the presentation was the damage done to the primary dune from the October 27, 2021 storm. There was minor to moderate erosion to the natural beach, approximately 6.5 miles. Major erosion to the primary dune in front of the public beach parking lot. Pictures showing the damage to the primary dune. Report went on to state the number of times the primary dune has had to be re-nourished. The report included years re-nourishment took place, cubic yards of sand used and cost to re-nourish. Measurements will be taken of sand loss. It appears that the vast majority of the dune was lost. Sand replacement began in 2013 and there have been 6 sand placements to date for a total of close to a half a million dollars. Pete asked Nina at what date was the long term Coastal Resiliency plan brought before Town Council? Nina responded that the plan went before the Town Council in 2016. Pete continued to say that Sandy Neck planned well ahead of time for a retreat because the dune sticks out and the money spent already for re-nourishment could have gone towards the resiliency plan. Tom stated that the resiliency plan still included fifty thousand dollars a year for continued sand placement to protect the frontal dune. Nina said that was correct. The good news was that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the second alternative analysis and design and permitting is closing on Wednesday, October 10, 2021 at 2 pm. Things are moving forward. During the October 27, 2021 storm we had a number of Gannets, which are deep sea birds, come up on the beach that had to be rescued. Sandy Neck was the epicenter. Thanks to staff and the O'Neill's, there were 25 Gannets and 10 sea ducks rescued. There was a high ratio of rescue and successful rehabilitation of the birds. Cape Wildlife rehabilitated the birds. Nina and Natural Resource Officer, Chris Nappi took 10 rehabilitated birds by boat and released them two days after the storm. The rest are being rehabbed and released as soon as possible. No turtles as of yet.

The meeting for the upcoming Sandy Neck deer hunt has been advertised in the Barnstable Patriot legal ads. The information is also on the front page of our website. The archery hunt is coming up the week of Thanksgiving and the mandatory meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7 pm at the Centerville recreation building.

Donna addressed the Board. The Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association, (MBBA), has graciously purchased two beach walkers through Totally Mobile. This will afford more people with needs access to the beach. A big thank you to all who participated. Tom O'Neill said he would be happy to write a letter on behalf of the Board to MBBA.

Sandy Neck merchandise for the winter and holidays is available at the Gatehouse by appointment. In addition we are holding two merchandise sales dates at the Sandy Neck Garage. The first on November 28th and the second on December 19th. The times for both days are 10 am to 2 pm. The information is available on our website under the merchandise heading.

Curfew for Off Road Vehicle Beach, (ORV) is 4 pm daily and no fires allowed on the beach.

We are aware that the Sandy Neck App is no longer working for iPhones and we are investigating another platform to provide information.

We are officially in turtle rescue season. Should you find a stranded turtle on the beach, move turtle up past high tide line, cover with seaweed, place something to identify there is a turtle, like a buoy, or a piece of trash. Then call the Gatehouse or Mass Audubon Wellfleet.

Old Business:

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines. Taken out of order. Tom O'Neill addressed the Board.**
 1. Tom asked Nina to speak about the sand placement for the primary dune. Nina stated that we would be getting material from the dredging at the Point and it will be trucked in. Just waiting on a timeframe. Tom asked about cubic yards of material and Nina responded that it was less than the last placement but could not recall the exact number.
 2. Pete stated that he thought he heard Nina say that there was progress on going forth with a request for proposals to consultants to help us with the second step with the implementation of the plan. Nina said that was correct. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was written to dust off the alternative analysis, which is still very relevant and very good material, and to determine if there are additional technologies that may have come up in the last five years. Look at offsite parking, and then determine a solution based on any new information. Then design and permitting would be the next step. Pete asked if this step would be reasonably quick and then we could move forward with the next step. Nina said generally there is a timeframe imbedded into the contract and Nina would share that. Pete said that with the current science regarding climate change, he doubted that there would be any new technology that would change the plan with the exception of an increased need to get the plan done.

- 2. Economic sustainability. Taken out of order.**

Tom O'Neill addressed the Board saying that over the winter would be a good time to look at a longer term strategy around beach use and the cost of operations and improving the facility, and what that means regarding revenue.

- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation. None.**

- 4. Proposed Regulation Changes: Nina Coleman addressed the Board.**
 1. The summer hours for the Off Road Vehicle Beach would start May 1st of each year.
 2. No portable or permanent saunas are allowed on Sandy Neck Beach Park. All other leisure and/or recreational devices may be removed from the beach per the Park Manager for safety concerns and/or natural resource protection. There was a discussion regarding reasoning for this change and it came down to safety of patrons and environmental protection. Ann inquired as to if it was a catch-all regulation change and Nina said it was as when new devices come up they would be reviewed by the Park Manager for patron safety and natural resource protection.
 3. Tire pressure gauge. Built in vehicle pressure gauge does not qualify.
 4. Clarification was asked on the bucket size to put out campfires. Bucket suitable for extinguishing campfires.
 5. Self-contained vehicles, arriving for their stay, must be on the beach by no later than 9:00pm. Ann asked if a statement that chase vehicles can come on later should be included. Nina said that it is only regarding self-contained vehicles.
 6. Tom O'Neill called for a vote by the Board on the proposed regulation changes. On a motion by Pete Sampou to accept the regulation changes as written and submit to the Town Manager consideration; Ann Canedy seconded, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll Call to approve the proposed regulation changes. Ann Canedy, Aye; Pete Sampou, Aye; Maureen Piccione, Aye; Bill Monroe, Aye; Joe O'Brien, Aye; Tom O'Neill, Aye. The motion carried.

New Business: Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

1. Nina provided the Board with the Conservation Commission (Con Com) report for Sandy Neck. The annual report is required under Sandy Neck Orders of Conditions. The Orders of Conditions are set to expire soon and we will ask for additional Orders of Conditions which will likely be an annual event. In November, Nina will be presenting the numbers of the endangered species to the Conservation Commission.
 - a. **Piping Plovers 2021.** Looking for numbers of pairs of plovers as compared to number of chicks fledged. The number to shoot for is 1.5 chicks fledged per pair. 2021 we had 38 pairs with 73 chicks fledged close to 2 chicks per pair. Exceptional year. The 2 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pairs which we had the two takes on in order to deter on the first part of the beach did very well. 2 pairs and there were 4 chicks fledged. This is one of the indices that is looked at by the state for the HCP program as well as the Orders of Conditions which allows Sandy Neck to run the beach.
 - b. **Diamondback Terrapins 2021.** There were an extraordinary 406 nests in 2021. With 256 nests predated. That leaves 158 nests potentially hatched. 10 nests were collected for head starting and 65 nests were capped.
 - c. The 2020 report on cold stunned sea turtles on Sandy Neck with 19 Kemps Ridley and 8 Loggerheads. 100+ isolated wetlands as well as marsh treated for invasive plant species.
 - d. **Enforcement.** Enforcement on the beach was down this year. We had a lot more folks on the beach in 2021, which we attribute to the 10 pm curfew still in effect. Natural Resource Officer, Hannah Lawrence will present the Safety Solutions in December or January with detailed information.
 - e. **Finances.** This information is presented by Fiscal Year, starting July 1st. We did very well and were able to pay back the funds we had to transfer from the reserve fund due to Covid for operating the beach. Discussion regarding financial numbers and questions were fielded by Nina.
 - f. **Off Road Vehicle Beach.** Barnstable Resident ORV permits, 1,481. Non-Resident ORV permits, 2,975. Property Owner ORV permits, 128. Camping nights 4,001.
 - g. The remainder of the report listed Property Owner escorts, hunting, tent camping, 2 wheel drive tests, special permits, horse permits, walks and talks, beach cleanup, Junior Ranger Program, Halfway House permits and number of portable rest rooms on the beach.
Nina fielded questions. Kris asked about the Concession Stand numbers. Nina said that the number was due to rent forgiveness due to Covid. Kris asked about donations to Sandy Neck. Nina said there is an educational gift account. Discussion regarding legalities and what could be done to expand.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: None

Public Comment:

1. Patrick Bresette asked about the Gannet strandings. Nina explained about the birds. Ann Canedy asked about the releasing of the birds.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by roll call vote at 8:02 pm. Tom O'Neill aye; Bill Monroe, aye; Pete Sampou, aye; Maureen Piccione, aye; Joe O'Brien, aye

. Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:

Power Point Presentation

Con Com Report



SNK Board
1182021.pptx



ConComReport
2021#.docx