



# TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

**SANDY NECK BOARD**  
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## **Sandy Neck Board Meeting October 17, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on October 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Selectmens Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

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

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr  
Kris Clark

Barnstable PD

Liaison:  
Chris Kelsey

### **Roll Call:**

Board Members present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Maureen Piccione, Ann Canedy, and Bill Carey.

Board Members absent: Joe O'Brien

Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, Hannah Lawrence, Assistant Park Manager, and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.

Staff Member absent: None.

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Paul Berger, Wendy Paquette, Tracy Hallett, and Rich French.

Guest Speaker:

### **Act on Minutes:**

On a motion by Pete Sampou and seconded by Ann Canedy, the Sandy Neck Board voted by unanimous consent to approve the September 12, 2022 Board Minutes.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

## **Staff Report:** Hannah Lawrence addressed the Board.

- Hannah showed a presentation. \* See attached.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> we held CoastSweep beach cleanup. Small turnout. Picked up twenty pounds of trash. As a reminder staff is always out cleaning up beach.
- Still have merchandise at the Gatehouse for sale.
- Marine Environment Affairs/Sandy Neck recently hired two new permanent staff members to the Natural Resource department. Both Ann Marie Luppino and Antonio Mancha have been seasonal Natural Resource Officers for a number of years.
- We are in hunting season now. Pheasants are stocked at Sandy Neck on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Never any hunting on Sundays.
- On October 30, 2022 West Barnstable Fire Department will be at Sandy Neck for their annual Trunk and Treat from 3 pm to 5 pm. Fire department will have fire vehicles and Sandy Neck will have Natural Resource Vehicles for the children to see. The children can trick or treat from vehicle to vehicle.
- As of November 1, 2022 Off Road Vehicle access will be from 8 am to 4 pm. No campfires will be allowed.
- Nina spoke about the issues with staffing and how the town has responded with the hiring of the two new staff members. The new hires will help with continuity and safety issues. Will provide more professional people to the staff. Really thrilled with the new staff members.
- Tom spoke about the cleanup on the beach and said there needs to be more publicity for the event. Kris Clark said that she made a suggestion to the Town Manager about engaging people through a calendar of events on the Town of Barnstable website.
- Tom would like an organization chart of Sandy Neck staff.

## **Old Business:**

### **1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.**

### **2. Economic sustainability.** None.

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

- 4. Fee Discussion and vote.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board and provided slides. \* See attached, fee matrix Nina provided showed the Sandy Neck fees in comparison to other Off Road beaches. Sandy Neck is lower in cost. She also pointed out that included in the Off Road Vehicle fee, we allow campfires on the beach. We are providing a good recreational opportunity that is pretty competitive with other Off Road Vehicle beaches. We did not have a complete closure this past summer as most of the other beaches did. Nina went on and explained the proposed fee changes can be viewed by clicking on the attached report. Board members asked questions and discussed the proposed changes in the fee structure. Ann asked about the tent camping rescue fee and Nina explained that it is a 3.3 mile hike and there are times when people just wanted to be picked up with their gear and driven either out or back from the campground and this was put to discourage that behavior. Bill Carey asked that it not be called a rescue fee, perhaps use retrieval fee instead of rescue fee. Nina said that would be a good idea.
- The other part of the fee discussion was camper night fees. Nina presented the data regarding campers on Sandy Neck. During part of the summer the beach was open 0.7 miles with 45 spots designated for campers. Each space is 26 feet by around 100 feet, depending on the width of the beach where each camper parks. Each spot is reserved using the Sandy Neck online reservation system. Camper/Chase may stay up to 96 hours. Nina explained the breakdown of the users. The information is based on the current permit sales of 4,887 permits. 93% are Daytrippers; 4% RV Campers; 3% Slide-On Campers. Camper nights sold 2,600. The breakdown of overnight camper fees will be broken down according to camper size. RV Campers would pay a different fee from slide-on campers. Nina explained the fiscal rationale for these fees.

The Board discussed the requested fee increases. Tom pointed to the data. Bill Carey would have liked to have Profit-Loss statement for Sandy Neck. Tom said that Nina was looking to other factors, not just the increase to help fund the reconfiguration project. One is the competitiveness with other beaches and the other being the dynamics of beach use. Nina explained that this information she presented is not just her but the whole Town of Barnstable finance network that is advising on this. Mark Milne, Director of Finance as well as Derek Lawson, Director of Marine Environmental Affairs Department, have been guiding Nina during this process. Ann Canedy spoke about Carey's concern regarding cost and revenue. Ann said we are trying to get up to the level of other similar beaches with cost competitiveness and we are not trying to meet our project expenses at this go around. Maureen Piccione said we are so far below our competitors and with sales increasing; it is putting a strain on resources and staff. Becoming proactive and taking a step in the direction towards the project. Tom said irrespective of the project an increase in revenue presents opportunities for more educational projects for Sandy Neck. Tom did not see a downside to the fee increases as we are being brought up to being competitive with other beaches. Bill asked other questions regarding Special Permits increases. Nina explained the reasoning behind the fees.

Tom made the motion to approve the Fee Schedule for 2023 without change. Pete Sampou seconded the motion. The Sandy Neck Board voted by unanimous consent to approve the Fee Schedule for 2023 as presented.

Kris Clark asked if there would be a public hearing regarding the fees. Nina said yes. The next step is it goes to the Town Manager. The Town Manager hearing is set for November 15, 2022 during the day. The public will have a chance at that time to weigh in on the matter. The Town Manager will then take the matter under advisement and render a decision within thirty days.

**5. Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

The Town of Barnstable has received a grant from Coastal Zone Management, (CZM), for this project. CZM is invested in this project. This grant is for fiscal year 2023 which we are now in. The grant is for \$128,127. The scope of the funding is: 1. Additional engineered plans for the three alternatives the Board selected. 2. Regulatory review. Public outreach. 3 Engineered plans for the final alternative selected. Permitting of final plan selected.

The Board has selected alternatives 2, 6 & 7. The Town Manager has been briefed on the selections chosen by Department of Public Works. The Town Manager has given the nod to go to the next phase of the process. This will consist of taking the 3 designs chosen and flushing them out a little further and presenting them with 3-D renderings. The next step will be public outreach. Tentative dates for public outreach are, Wednesday, November 16th at 6 pm. This would be a virtual meeting. The in person meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 7 pm, location to be determined. Nina will email exact dates, location and times when confirmed.

The Town Manger will brief Town Council as project moves forward during his communication reports. Nina explained that the timeline is designed to bring the three alternatives before the public to be fully vetted and once the selection is made, the winning alternative will be brought before Town Council for funding.

Nina said there have been some minor changes to the three alternatives since the last meeting. The biggest change was with alternative 2, the hardscaping. Nina wanted to include the moving of the Access Trail as well as the Gatehouse in this alternative so we would be comparing apples to apples; making all three alternatives more consistent with each other. By making the changes, alternative 2 scores went up. The other change to alternative 2 was addressing the lower parking lot condition. The lot will have to be repaved and storm water dealt with. These two changes made the initial cost of alternative 2 to go to 4.2 million dollars.

**New Business:**

- 1. Regulation Discussion.** Nina Coleman addressed the Board. No proposal for regulation changes at this time.

**Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:109 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:



Staff report  
10.17.22.pptx



New staff.pptx



Proposed FEE 2023  
with Justification.pdf



Section 3 policy.docx