



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting July 13, 2009

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:

Henry Farnham
Ann Canedy

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on July 13, 2009 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, Nate King, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager.
- Public: Wendy Bowles.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell, and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the June minutes as amended with one sentence correction. *Nate King abstained from voting because he was not at that meeting.*

Correspondence:

Hank Farnham told the Board that he is in communications with Representative Jeffrey Perry regarding piper plover activity on Sandy Neck. Nina reported that she has spoken with Rep. Perry's staff and sent him a copy of the Order of Conditions which binds activity on Sandy Neck.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- Over July 4th holiday weekend, chicks hatched so had to close the beach at Trail 1. Were able to get everyone on the beach – except campers – during this time. Hired police detail because so many people in small corridor. Thankfully, no major incidents. Safety high priority. Citations were written for alcohol violations. Continuing zero tolerance for abuse. Violators were kicked off beach.
- Tried to contact both State and Federal Officials prior to the holiday to discuss this closure – no replies. After the holiday, spoke to both agencies and they were adamant that beach could not be open. Disappointing that so much of the beach had to be closed over this holiday weekend.
- Plovers have caused the latest closure. As of today, the beach is open for only one mile close to Trail 2.
- Right now there are 29 pairs of plovers with nests.
- Cottage owners need to be aware of the large number of turtles in and around the marsh trail.
- Nina participated in “touch-a-truck day”. This is an event sponsored by the town where the public comes and “touches” different vehicles. Lots of fun.
- Nina conducted two hikes on Sandy Neck – well attended.
- Junior Ranger program will be starting soon.

Note: Rich French stated that he was at the gatehouse over the holiday weekend and thought the staff handled this difficult situation professional and complimented the staff.

Old Business:

Proposed beach legislation discussion/closures due to plovers and terns

Rich French: The current regulations do not allow the local management to use their education and judgment regarding closure of the beach. He would like the Board to take a more active role and reconstruct the regulations with more authority given to the Town since the local people are there everyday and have the hands-on knowledge.

Discussion:

- ❖ Could “home rule” legislation be put in place? Let “us” rule “our beach”. New legislation needed.
- ❖ Perhaps we can get our Senators and Representative to meet with us and discuss this issue.
- ❖ Good idea since the “go around committee” hit a wall. Would they like to work on this topic again?
- ❖ Need to begin a dialogue allowing our Sandy Neck Park Manager to be manage our beach(es).
- ❖ There is an economic impact when the beach is closed. Financial stability is an issue.

On a motion by Nate King and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board unanimously voted to request Rich French make arrangements to meet with our State and Local Representatives to start drafting new legislation for Sandy Neck Park Beach.

New Business:

Board Reorganization

On a motion by Nate King and seconded by Barbara Bell, the Sandy Neck Board unanimously nominated Richards French as Chairman and William Carey as Vice Chairman. Expressions of gratitude and confidence in their previous terms were expressed by the other members of the board. Thank you.

Halfway House

Rich French: The open house was sparsely attended. Those attending saw the dramatic changes to the cottage. Making a CD that will be available for distribution in the near future. The building is now safe and weather tight and a big plus for education.

Dredge Discussion

Rich French: The “hole” at Sandy Neck cottage colony was not filled as much as they had anticipated. He was told that the channel was not dredged as deep as they had proposed and not as much volume taken because a pipe broke and all the sand did not go to Sandy Neck. Can this information be confirmed by Bob Burgmann? Can the site be left open? Can more sand (an amount closer to what was proposed) be dug and brought to Sandy Neck? It took so long to get the permits – how long are they valid? How many years? Can the harbor be dredged again in a few years before the permits expire with the dredge spoils going to Sandy Neck? Nina will check this information out for the Board and report back.

Jet skis

Rich French: Jet skis are allowed at Sandy Neck. State regulations restrict jet skis from coming within 150 feet of any swimming area. But 150 feet is not very far out and there have been a lot of complaints. Should that distance be increased? Entering and exiting the water is causing safety issue concerns. Should jet skis be prohibited? Lynne Heslinga, George Muhlebach, and Bill Carey will look into this issue for next year’s regulations.

Public Comment:

- *Wendy Bowles* thanked Nina for posting updates on the website over the holiday weekend. It made for better communication.

NOTE: The website is www.sandyneckbeachpark.com

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem