



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE
SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting
December 12, 2011

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on December 12, 2011 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Chairman:
Richards French

Vice Chairman:
William Carey

Board Members:
Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:
June Daley
Ann Canedy

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Nate King, George Muhlebach, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: June Daley and Ann Canedy.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Diane Lomba and Wendy Paquette.

Introduce New Council Liaison:

June Daley, Precinct 11, was introduced to the Board. Welcome.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Nate King and seconded by Bill Carey, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the November minutes as printed. Barbara Bell and George Muhlebach abstained.

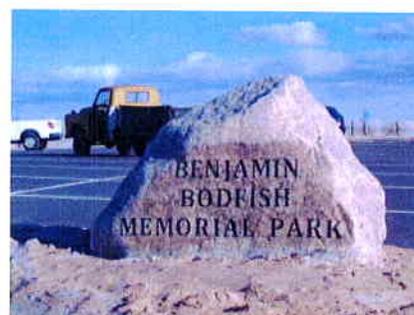
Correspondence:

- None

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The gatehouse is open by appointment only.
- The 2011 Sandy Neck Deer for archery was held from November 21 – 26 and three deer were taken, (two bucks and one doe). The primitive firearms deer hunt started today and as of 2 pm, one doe was taken. A total of twelve (12) is allowed. All 60 hunters that came to the primitive firearms meeting will be allowed to hunt. There will be 20 each day. New this year, pairing will be allowed. Teams can go out together. Many people liked the idea and she has heard positive feedback.
- Cottage colony – removed fencing with the help of AmeriCorp.
- Budget – two main requests for additional staff. The first request is for “senior” employee positions. These positions will be for those people that come back year after year and are already trained. ORV use has risen 40% for the last 8 years but staff has not increased to match the usage. Plus, the pay rate has remained the same since 2004. These positions are seasonally only. The second request is for a maintenance/groundskeeper position. This person would be responsible for the grounds around the bathhouse, trash removal, restrooms, portable toilet, among other duties.
- The following photos were presented:



Old Business:

Sandy Neck Year End Report

The following was [originally] presented to the Board at the November Meeting. Nina Coleman discussed this information:

Piping Plover

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Pairs (Total Count)	35	31	28	38	44
Number of Eggs	141	142	101	142	189
Eggs Hatched	93	60	66	93	80
Chicks Fledged	53	43	28	60	57

Plover Habitat Protection

Over six (6+) miles of symbolic fencing installed and 7 wire nest exclosures installed.

Diamondback Terrapin

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
# of Nests Head Started	2	2	7	6	6
# of Nests Capped	21	49	108	115	112
Number of Nests	36	59	119	122	114
Number of Nests Predated	0	2	0	1	4
Potentially Hatched Nests	36	57	119	121	110

Terns:

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Least Terns	192	432	245	180
Common Tern	0	0	0	0

Wetland Restoration:

34 isolated freshwater wetlands treated.

5.3 acres of salt marsh treated

*Restoration refers to application of herbicides on *Phragmites australis* and mechanical removal of *Lythrum salicaria* and *Panicum spp.*

Enforcement:

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Citations	56	75	47	29
Written Warning	13	3	9	2
Permits Revoked	4	4	8	11
"No Trespass" Issued	0	0	0	1

Hunting

Pheasant Hunt: 10/15-11/26 (estimated total of 250-275 pheasant stocked)

Revenue (fiscal year-Munis)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Dune Fees (ORV)	\$358,926	\$337,579	\$386,512	\$379,827
Beach Parking	\$88,683	\$87,790	\$97,230	\$109,590
Sandwich Revenue	\$36,772	\$37,691	\$38,633	\$39,599
Beach Concession	\$14,886	\$11,839	\$8,238	\$14,499
Cottage Lease Fees	\$34,650	\$43,050	\$41,464	\$35,343
Parking Stickers	\$25,683	\$27,445	\$30,666	\$31,146
Merchandise	\$10,244	\$16,248	\$15,584	\$16,783
Miscellaneous	\$2,660	\$1,178	\$1,205	\$1,832
Earnings on Investments	\$11,103	\$6,742	\$2,421	\$4,698
Total Revenue	\$583,543	\$569,564	\$622,155	\$633,317

Off Road Vehicle Permits (calendar year Jan.-Oct.)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Barnstable Resident	1,212	1,355	1,253	1,410	1,430
Sandwich Resident	631	744	678	774	826
Non Resident	853	923	919	1,073	1,160
Property Owner	122	123	127	124	122
Total # ORV permits	2,818	3,145	2,977	3,381	3,538

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Camping Nights	4,924	6,144	6,683	7,023	7,373
Number of Day Trips	10,109	13,059	12,391	14,105	12,845
Number of Trips to Cottages	591	456	429	566	372
Total # of Vehicle Trips	15,624	19,659	19,503	21,694	20,590

Escorts

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
June	65	15	17	15	23
July	83	48	80	26	41
August	55	52	17	27	18
September	26	5	0	1	0
Total	229	120	114	69	82

Along with the discussion of these numbers, the Board asked Nina Coleman if she could provide the number of chase vehicles versus number of resident and nonresident trips. Public safety and a child's wellbeing are key to the number of vehicles allowed on the beach at any given time. Well trained staff and weekend police presence has helped with enforcing proper behavior of beach users. The discussion regarding limiting the number of vehicles and day trippers vs. campers allowed on the beach at any given time could be put on the February agenda.

Sandy Neck Parking Numbers Report

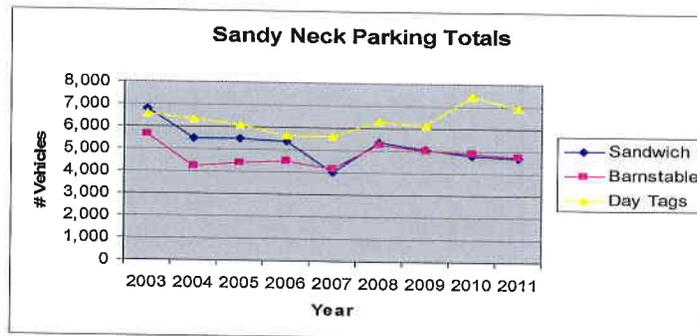
The following was [originally] presented to the Board at the November Meeting. Nina Coleman discussed this information:

Number of vehicles using Sandy Neck parking during business hours.

* estimated in 2011

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Sandwich	5,463	5,488	5,353	4,009	5,384	5,068	4,788	4,669*
Barnstable	4,195	4,390	4,487	4,143	5,244	5,011	4,897	4,754*
Day Tags	6,391	6,126	5,621	5,613	6,307	6,182	7,460	6,947

Business hours = 8AM-3:30PM on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only from Memorial Day until the third weekend in June and then everyday from the third weekend in June until Labor Day.



Marsh Trail Repair

Nina Coleman explained that they are looking at the Trail 5 area for repair work this winter. She needs to file a Notice of Intent for the proposed work so she can not give a timeline or any guarantees as to what and/or when work can be done. Town is now working on plans.

2012 User Fees

Rich French explained the following:

The 2012 user fees were presented to the Board (and voted upon) at their November meeting. The Town Manager Fee Hearing was held on December 6th. Several letters/suggestions were read by Thomas Lynch, Acting Town Manager. The final decision has not been made yet.

After last month's Sandy Neck Board Meeting, new user fees for overnight camping were presented. They are as follows:

Overnight Camp

Resident:	2011	\$5.00 per night	<i>2012</i>	<i>\$6.00 (proposed)</i>
Sandwich & Non Resident:	2011	\$10.00 per night	<i>2012</i>	<i>\$12.00 (proposed)</i>
All Chase Vehicles:	2011	\$5.00 per night	<i>2012</i>	<i>\$6.00 (proposed)</i>
Tent Camping:	2011	\$20.00 per night		

A letter was sent to Barnstable Acting Town Manager Tom Lynch from Sandwich Town Manager George Dunham regarding user fees. The Sandy Neck Board was "cc'd" on this letter which is attached at the end of these minutes. The Board discussed this letter.

New Business:

- None

Public Comment:

- Wendy Paquette, MBBA, addressed the Board. She thanked Nina Coleman for considering the campers by lowering the overnight camping fees. Plus, she still feels that "day trippers" should be charged a daily fee. She asked if there was a vehicle limit on the beach and Nina Coleman replied "no"—there is no vehicle number limit.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment:

1. Letter to Thomas Lynch from George Dunham, cc: Sandy Neck Board.

TOWN OF SANDWICH

THE OLDEST TOWN ON CAPE COD

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SANDWICH, MA 02563

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BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

TOWN
MANAGER

November 30, 2011

Mr. Thomas K. Lynch
Interim Town Manager
Town of Barnstable
Barnstable Town Hall
367 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601

Re: Proposed FY 2012 Sandy Neck Fee Changes

Dear Mr. Lynch:

I wanted to provide you with formal comments from the Town of Sandwich on the proposed FY2012 Sandy Neck Fee Changes to be discussed at your upcoming fee hearing on December 6, 2011. Specifically, I wanted to express the Town's strong opposition to the proposed new \$50.00 annual "Sandwich Parking Permit."

As you know, the Town of Sandwich makes annual payments to the Town of Barnstable to allow Sandwich residents to enter Sandy Neck Beach Park. In the current fiscal year, this totals \$40,590.00, an amount which increases by 2.5% annually.

It is our understanding that the Town of Barnstable is considering a new \$50.00 "Sandwich Parking Permit" to replace the current annual payment from the Town of Sandwich to generate an *additional* \$22,756.00 to cover Sandwich's "share" of the recent capital improvements at Sandy Neck Park, i.e., the new bathhouse and paved walkways. It is also our understanding that the Sandy Neck Board would like the Town of Sandwich to purchase a total of \$64,360.00 of "Sandwich Parking Permits" from the Town of Barnstable up-front and assume the risk of later re-selling and recouping the associated costs from Sandwich residents.

The Town of Sandwich strongly opposes this proposal for the following reasons:

1. The Town of Sandwich does not formally own any portion of the new bathhouse or paved walkways, yet we are being asked to pay for "our share" of these structures.
2. We believe the revenue derived from the Town of Barnstable's food and beverage vendor management agreement(s) at the Sandy Neck bathhouse should be reflected in the fee proposal. Specifically, we believe that some portion of the revenue should offset some portion of "our share" of the cost of the building, which houses the food and beverage operation.
3. The Town of Sandwich was not asked to participate in the building committee for the new bathhouse. Accordingly, we do not know if a differently designed, lower cost building could, or should, have been constructed.
4. In FY06, both towns agreed to a new payment structure which more than doubled Sandwich's payments to Barnstable. Capital improvements were not part of this agreement or discussion.
5. In addition to paying the Town of Barnstable over \$40,000 *annually*, at an amount automatically increasing by 2.5% per year, the Town of Sandwich also maintains – at 100% Town of Sandwich expense – Sandy Neck Road leading into Sandy Neck Park. Our Department of Public Works estimates this costs the Town of Sandwich over \$24,000 per year, on average. This includes snow and ice removal, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, paving, striping, mowing & brushing, and litter pickup. At a minimum, we believe any request by the Town of Barnstable for additional fees from the Town of Sandwich should be offset by some or all of these substantial costs the Town of Sandwich incurs on an annual basis, as they are directly related to the traffic entering Sandy Neck Park.
6. The Town of Sandwich is concerned that this proposal is being proposed and considered at the last minute, and that we do not have sufficient time to fully consider all of its aspects. For example:
 - o The Town of Sandwich would like to see substantially more detailed data about actual Sandwich resident usage at Sandy Neck Park.
 - o We are unclear if the proposed \$64,360.00 annual cost to the Town of Sandwich will go up by 2.5% per year. What will happen to the debt amount allocated to the Town of Sandwich when the debt is fully paid off? Will our cost allocation decrease accordingly?

- o Compared to the status quo, will Sandwich residents receive any additional benefits or services in return for the substantial additional funding being requested? For example, will any physical parking spaces be reserved for the "Sandwich Parking Permits" sold?

If the Town of Sandwich does ultimately agree to an additional amount – net of a reasonable share of food and beverage bathhouse revenues and our DPW expense for maintaining Sandy Neck Road – we would like to discuss payment mechanisms other than the Town of Sandwich purchasing stickers up-front from the Town of Barnstable and assuming all the risk for recovering our costs after the fact. For example, we believe other viable options should also be discussed, such as the Town of Sandwich increasing our own beach sticker, through the Sandwich Board of Selectmen fee hearing process, with a higher annual amount paid to the Town of Barnstable quarterly, to more closely match the cash flow of our beach sticker sales.

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the Town of Sandwich's input on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (508) 888-4910 or 5144 if you have any questions or would like to further discuss.

Sincerely,



George H. Dunham
Town Manager

cc: Town of Sandwich Board of Selectmen
Town of Sandwich Department of Natural Resources
Town of Sandwich Recreation Department
Town of Sandwich Department of Public Works
Town of Barnstable, Sandy Neck Board