



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE
SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting
April 09, 2012

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

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on April 09, 2012 at the Barnstable Town Hall Hearing Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Nate King, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, George Muhlebach, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: June Daley.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager; and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Many people were present but did not sign in. Those who did - are identified in these minutes.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Nate King and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the March minutes as printed.

Correspondence:

- none

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- Gatehouse is open seven days a week from 9 am to 4 pm. Stickers sales are already up 12% for this time of year.
- Hiring of staff is almost complete.
- Fencing is up and was completed prior to April 1st as required in the Orders of Conditions.
- There will be hike, *Celebrate Spring on Sandy Neck*, on Wednesday, April 18th at 10 am.
- The annual Spring Beach Clean-up with MBBA will be held on Sunday April 29th starting at 9am.
- The plovers are back - "one day early". It is too early to predict anything for the season.

Old Business:

Marsh Trail Repair

Nina Coleman was please to report that the work at Trail 5 was completed. The following pictures were shown:

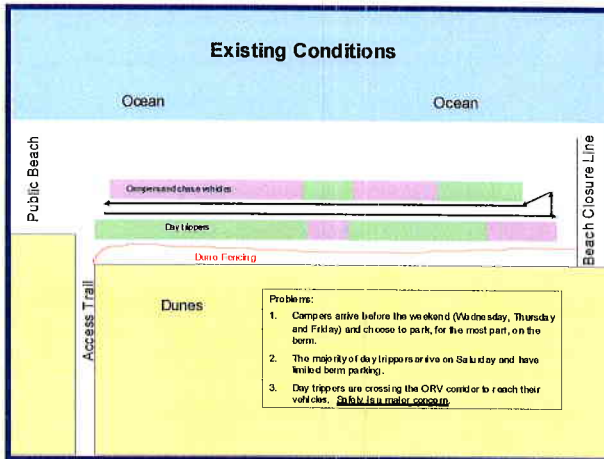


There is gravel & stone and hopefully the water will flow out of the area and not puddle. It should be noted, after the last big tide, the water did flush in and out, which is a good sign.

Big thank you to the Town's Highway Dept for their great work on this project.

ORV parking proposal for 2012

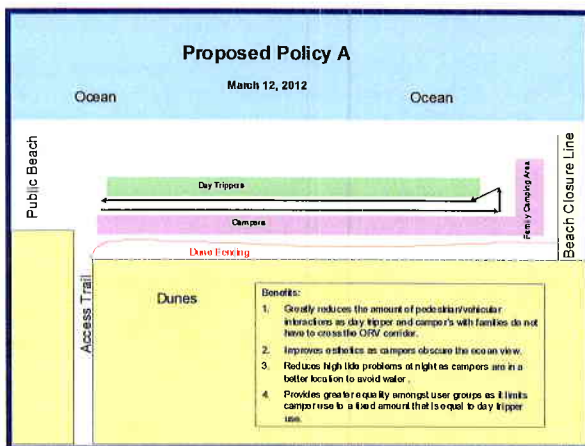
The PowerPoint presentation was [again] explained by Nina Coleman. She is not in favor of one user group over another but rather looking for what is fair to all. Sticker sales and number of vehicles on the beach is continuing to increase every year.



Existing conditions:

To review, Nina Coleman explained that with the existing conditions, the campers and day trippers park on both sides of the ORV corridors. Some of the current problems are (1) Campers arrive before the weekend (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and choose to park, for the most part, on the berm. (2) The majority of day trippers arrive on Saturday and have limited berm parking. (3) Patrons are crossing the ORV corridor to go back and forth between the beach and their vehicles.

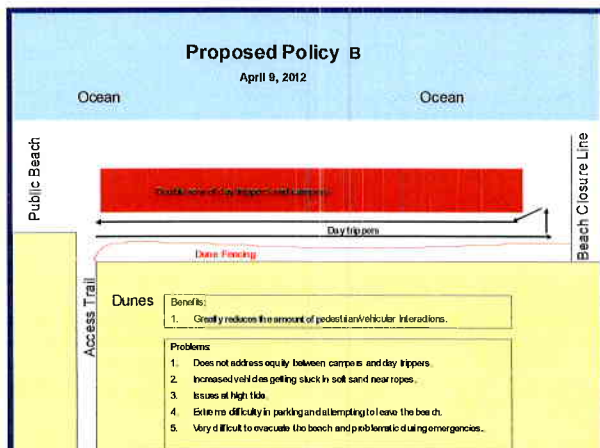
Suggestions from the previous meetings and calls to the gatehouse include: (1) provide parking zones for the campers and parking zones for the day trippers (2) require campers to be with their campers overnight thus reduce the ability to “save spots” (3) eliminate chase vehicles or provide chase vehicle parking areas (4) eliminate trailers (5) put limits on the number of vehicles that can access the beach (6) enforce speed and alcohol issues more aggressively (7) hire more staff.



Proposed Policy A presented at March 12th Meeting

The campers park along the rope and the day trippers park on the berm.

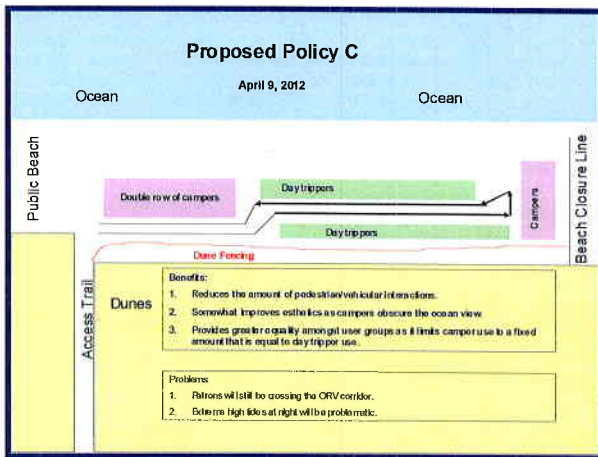
The benefits of this arrangement are (1) Greatly reduces the amount of pedestrian/vehicular interactions as day tripper and camper's with families do not have to cross the ORV corridor. (2) Improves esthetics as campers obscure the ocean view. (3) Reduces high tide problems at night as campers are in a better location to avoid water. (4) Provides greater equality amongst user groups as it limits camper use to a fixed amount that is equal to day tripper use. Plus there will be a Family Camping Area (for families with children) after the ORV corridor where no vehicles will be driving.



Proposed Policy B based on suggestions at March 12th Meeting

Everybody on the berm in a double or triple row

Benefits of this arrangement are (1) Greatly reduces the amount of pedestrian/vehicular interactions. Problems include (1) Does not address equity between campers and day trippers. (2) Increased vehicles getting stuck in soft sand near ropes. (3) Increases issues at high tide. (4) Extreme difficulty in parking and attempting to leave the beach. (5) Very difficult to evacuate the beach and problematic during emergencies.



Proposed Policy C based on suggestions at March 12th Meeting

Create zones of campers and zones of day trippers

Benefits of this arrangement include (1) Reduces the amount of pedestrian/vehicular interactions. (2) Somewhat improves esthetics as campers obscure the ocean view. (3) Provides greater equality amongst user groups as it limits camper use to a fixed amount that is equal to day tripper use.

Problems include (1) Patrons will still be crossing the ORV corridor. (2) Extreme high tides at night will be problematic.

Sandy Neck Board Comments:

- **Pete Sampou:** Asked if there could be different plans for weekdays vs. weekends. **Nina Coleman** responded stating that it would be too confusing.
- **Nina Coleman:** This is a difficult discussion and change is always hard.
- **Rich French:** Asked if a staff person could be assigned to this parking the issue for the summer. **Nina Coleman** responded that she does not have the funding for an additional person. However, this summer there will be 4 NROs not 3 NROs.
- **Bill Carey:** Is the real issue the fact that we have too many vehicles on Sandy Neck? Maybe we just need to limit vehicles. This looks too complicated. Maybe we are at full capacity.
- **Nina Coleman:** Yes, limits may be needed but we need to be consistent about equality among all users.
- **Nate King:** If day trippers park perpendicular, you may get in more vehicles.

Public Comments:

Rich French asked for public comment regarding the parking proposal.

- **Russell Hayden:** Has there been research of the number of day trippers and campers. **Nina Coleman** again reviewed the PowerPoint slide showing many years worth of data.
- **William Hallet:** (1) does not like designated areas (2) these new policies will create more problems. (3) you are rewriting the rules for a small percentage of people.
- **Chris Griem;** read the letter attached at the end.
- **Bob Lovell:** (1) If you put campers on the rope it is difficult because of the uneven sand because you are at an angle (2) need more enforcement (3) need more help (4) regarding equality – campers pay more money than day trippers so lean more toward campers (5) how serious is this problem – is there really a problem (6) agrees with first come first served (7) give this a lot of thought before you make any changes.
- **Wendy Paquette:** (1) the season is already beginning – can you keep it the same for this year (2) more signage (3) enforce speed limit.

New Business:

Lease Progress

Nina Coleman updated the Board. There was a meeting recently with Nina Coleman, Dan Horn, Legal Staff, Procurement Staff, and the Assessing Dept. The meetings have just started. Leases are up at the end of June. Currently in negotiations and can not say anything more at this time. If they Board has any suggestions, tell Nina Coleman and she will bring them to the Town Manager.

Public Comment:

- none

A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session as a discussion in open session with respect to the purchase or value of real property located at parcel 242-001 may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town. Roll Call Vote: Pete Sampou–yes, George Muhlebach–yes, Barbara Bell–yes, Bill Carey–yes, Nate King–yes, Rich French–yes.

The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem

Letter read by Chris Greim:

I come here tonight not to complain or question the board, not to point fingers or make a distinction between two sets of sticker holders, I am here tonight to make a statement. Often times during the summer as I drive through Sandwich and West Barnstable on 6A I look out over the dunes and will say, "there's my summer home" I have had the good fortune to have spent a significant amount of time on Sandy Neck in the past 5 years. My wife like so many others has enjoyed Sandy Neck her entire life. Camping with her family, I grew up on Coast Guard and Nauset beach one of which no longer exists I count the days until Christmas and Memorial Day weekend 46 by the way for Memorial Day 260 til Christmas, I work all winter to be able to enjoy the summer on Sandy Neck with my family.

A few years ago I was speaking with a guy from off Cape. He told me he comes every year for 4th of July. He told me he buys the non resident sticker, at the time 150 dollars, he paid 180 dollars a night for a hotel for 5 nights, plus gas plus food, plus so in essence it would cost a family of 4 roughly 2000 dollars for a week at the beach. Some people pay as much as 3000 dollars a week for beachfront property for just one week. We pay for our sticker for the year and either 5 or 10 dollars a night for beachfront property every weekend.

Last year Sandy Neck was the only off road beach open on the cape on the 4th of July. We often don't understand the rules why the 6 miles of beach has to close down sometimes to 1 mile because of the birds, that in some countries are considered a delicacy. We don't understand why there's no alcohol on the beach. But we don't have to, they are there for a reason.

When you go to a public beach in the town of Barnstable have you heard the list of rules? No kite flying, no ball playing, no Frisbee throwing, no floats, no umbrellas sometimes, no dogs at all, no this no that. Considering all of that are things on Sandy Neck really that awful?

Many Friday nights we sit by our fires with our friends and family, the smell of burgers, steaks, and sometime fresh fish being grilled. The laughter of the kids playing on the sandbars, sometimes even some spectacular sunsets. On Sundays the beach is full of people enjoying the sunshine, playing ladder golf, or volleyball, and any number of other beach games. And while we sit comfortably on our beautiful beach enjoying the sunshine and music, with a nice bay breeze, about 5 miles away thousands of people sit in traffic coming on or off the Cape to spend those thousands of dollars I mentioned before. At the end of the weekend we pack up and go home, clean our campers, and cars, and get ready to do it all over again the next weekend. And for 10 weeks each year we all enjoy our beach. We enjoy our friends and our families.

Sometimes we don't get to park right next to the people we want to. Sometimes we have to walk to see our friends. Is a walk on the beach really that bad? Is your grill going to cook any faster, or the angle of your beach chair going to change that much if you drive 25 miles an hour or 5 miles an hour?

I know by making these statements I can't single handedly change this culture we've all helped to create. It truly is a culture all it's own, people that come for the day and people who stay for a few days, are either of us any better than the other? Don't we all work hard to enjoy the time we spend on Sandy neck?

I come here tonight to ask why there has to be such a big distinction between day trippers and campers. Aren't we all in fact sticker holders? Isn't it up to all of us to get along? Folks we are on the beach, not the mall, not in traffic at the bridge, not at work we're on the beach why can't we enjoy that together. Just slow down and enjoy the beach. I don't want to mention a quote from a less happy time, but I will, why can't we all get just along?

I thank the board for all that they do and for providing this open forum to hear what we have to say and for listening and hearing the concerns of the beach goers, and for working to make sure we all have a "summer home" to go to. I thank Nina and the beach staff who make sure we have a safe environment for our kids our friends and our families.

I believe in my heart this is not a difficult issue to resolve if we ALL take responsibility for our families, our children, our friends and each other. No place is perfect but lets be honest Sandy Neck comes dangerously close. Slow down, and smile, you're at the beach.