



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting June 10, 2013

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:

June Daley

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 10, 2013 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Chairman Richard French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, George Muhlebach, Lynn Heslinga, Pete Sampou, and Rich French. Bill Carey and Nate King arrived late.
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager; and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Council Liaison: June Daley.
- Public: Wendy Paquette, Diane Lomba, Kylie Palomba, Hank Farnham, Bob Lovell, and Peter Thomas.

Chairman Rich French announced that Barbara Bell has submitted a letter to the Town Clerk stating that she is resigning from the Sandy Neck Board because she is moving off Cape. Barbara is one of the longest standing members of the Board. Rich French thanked her very much for her tireless work.

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Lynn Heslinga and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the May minutes as presented. Nate King and Bill Carey abstained as they were not present at that meeting

Correspondence:

- none

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board and spoke about the beach closure:

- Nest #14 hatched on June 7th @ 11 pm. The birds are close to the access trail. We are required under State and Federal Law to close the beach for the chicks because they will be "running around" in the ORV corridor. If they move west, they would be out of the way and the beach can re-open. If they go east, must close the beach.
- If the chicks are predated, the beach will re-open. If the brood stays – the beach cannot be reopened until they fledge which is usually 28 to 35 days. Worst case will be into July.
- As far as changes to the beach – there was the Nemo storm that changed the profile of the beach and the desired habitat of the plovers. This may be a new trend that the plovers nest at the access point?
- This situation is challenging to the staff because she had to furlough most of her staff. If this continues, she will not meet her revenue projections. It is extremely challenging for the public. It is difficult to turn people away.
- Good news is that there are no more nests on the front beach until you get past Trail 2 which leaves a big section of beach that can be used once the beach reopens.
- Plus, the beach is continually rebuilding after the storms.
- Usually have 40-45 pairs of plovers this year only had 23 – mostly due to the bad weather and therefore change of habitat.
- If the chicks go to the public beach, we can re-open the beach because it is not the "people" that threatens them – it is the vehicles.

- Generally speaking, Section 10 Permits from the State are too costly for the mitigation granted.

Old Business:

- none

New Business:

Proposed Dune Nourishment in Front of Parking Lot. Nina Coleman addressed the Board. The plan discussed is entitled “Sandy Neck Dune Restoration Barnstable, MA” dated 5/22/13 and is available at the gatehouse.

- There are two areas of concern - the area in front of the upper parking lot and the furthest section of the lower parking lot. This area was lost during the Nemo Storm.
- Need to amend the upper dune and create a buffer zone. This can be done by trucking in 4,800 cubic yards of material – the cheapest solution. Cost is around \$125,600. Need to protect the parking lot even if the new sand is sacrificial – better to lose the dune, than the entire parking lot.
- She has the permit in place from 2007. Just need to amend the Superseding Order of Conditions to make sure the materials are compatible. She can look into off -shore pumping but that may need other permits. Also, she can look into other techniques such as netting, plantings, grass, etc.

A **motion** was made by Pete Sampou and seconded by Barbara Bell and unanimously voted to direct the Sandy Neck Park Manager to continue to look into bringing in outside materials to rebuild the dune so as not to lose the parking lot. The money will come from the Sandy Neck Surplus Fund.

Public Comment:

- **Peter Thomas** spoke. He asked if the birds could be moved. Nina Coleman replied that the Endangered Species states that you can not harass the plovers.
- **Wendy Paquette** spoke. She asked about bonfires and the plovers. Nina Coleman stated that fires are allowed and the birds move away from it. It is not an issue.
- **Bob Lovell** asked about the back trail for public use. Nina Coleman explained that the permit which allows use of the back trail is limited to essential vehicles (cottage owners). He also asked about Christmas Trees for saving the dunes – which was done years ago. Nina stated it is no longer allowed. Bob Lovell thanked Nina and her staff for their excellent work at Sandy Neck.
- **Hank Farnham** thanked Barbara Bell for her dedication and many years of service to the Sandy Neck Board.
- **Town Councilor June Daley** told the Board that Barbara Bell will be honored at a future Town Council Meeting.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the Chairman ended the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem