

**TOWN OF BARNSTABLE**  
**SANDY NECK BOARD**  
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**Sandy Neck Board Meeting**  
**July 12, 2021**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on July 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm by remote Zoom meeting. *In accordance with the Governor's Order Prohibiting Gatherings of More Than 10 People, issued on March 15, 2020, and effective through May 18, 2020, unless further extended, the June 8, 2020 public meeting of the Sandy Neck Board shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation. Zoom information can be found on the Sandy Neck Agenda.*

Chairman:  
Thomas O'Neill

ViceChairman:  
Peter Sampou

BoardMembers:  
Ann Canedy  
William Carey  
William Monroe  
Joe O'Brien

CouncilLiaison:  
Gordon Starr  
Kris Clark

BarnstablePD  
Liaison:  
Chris Kelsey

**Roll Call:**

- Board Members remotely present: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Joe O'Brien, Bill Carey, and Pete Sampou. (Note: Pete came in at end of meeting.)
- Board Members absent: Ann Canedy.
- Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, and Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.
- Staff Member absent: None.
- Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark and Gordon Starr.
- Barnstable Police Liaison: Chris Kelsey.
- Public: Paul Berger and Rich French.
- Guest Speaker: None

**Act on Minutes:** Minutes taken out of order per Chairman Tom O'Neill.

- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Joe O'Brien, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the June 12, 2021 minutes. Bill Carey, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

**Public Comment:** None

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**Correspondence:** None

**Staff Report:**

*Nina Coleman addressed the Board.*

- We became fully staffed right before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Gatehouse fully staffed. A lot of the staff will be leaving early which is the trend. We have staff members leaving early August; we will be getting back to the same situation we were in before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This will be a struggle and hopefully we will have the remaining staff work extra hours.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July was very rainy. Very quiet. On the 4<sup>th</sup> we were fully booked with campers, which is typical. Daytripper area was full but not the usual 4<sup>th</sup> of July. No issues.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> of July was a nicer day. Very mellow crowd.
- We were able to have police details throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, which was excellent and we had that backup if needed. Fairly quiet weekend.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was followed on Friday by a storm out of the south. A few minor issues at Sandy Neck, portable toilets blown over, but compared to the south side beaches we fared very well through tropical storm Elsa.

- We have sold 4,000 permits so far. The record for an entire year being about 4,500 permits. Only in the beginning of July and lots of permits sold.
- We have only had to close the Off Road Vehicle Beach three times so far this year due to overcrowding. This has been partially due to the weather. We are in this odd position where we have sold a lot of permits but haven't experienced the full brunt because the weather has not been great on the weekends.
- Due to high permit sales, staffing issues and the post Covid situation we are experiencing this summer on Cape Cod; we are asking that people continue to have patience. Staff is working extremely hard and it is our first year going digital with permit sales. We continue to really try to keep people as happy as possible. We are available by phone and in person to help people through issues with the technology.
- We currently 300 plus Diamondback Terrapin nests. It is going to be a record breaking year. Donna stated that as of the meeting we were up to 340 nests.
- Nina presented the Board with the current Plover report. This is a current report as of July 12<sup>th</sup>. We are open from the Access Trail to a little past Trail 1 for off road vehicles at 0.5 miles. It may not sound like much but we are open more than a lot of other off road vehicle beaches on Cape Cod currently.
- Piping Plover Brood 25A is located at approximately 0.6 miles and is due to fledge starting July 12<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have them in the air by the weekend. This will not gain us too much more space as right behind Brood 25A is nest 20B, which is not due to start fledging until July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Once we get through Brood 20B fledging we will be at 1.0 miles. Broods 12A and 9A have fledged and 31A was lost. Once we are at 1.0 miles, which is where we are going to be for most of the summer. The reasons being we have both nest 29B and a colony of Terns at the one mile mark where you see Tern colony number 1. Because the Tern colony is both chicks and eggs, it is anticipated that, barring another storm or high predation, the beach will remain closed there for most of the remainder of the summer. Our beach is very wide and a mile will allow a lot of recreation. Once we open up more beach we will be able to create additional camper sites and more daytripper area.
- Nina asked if there were any questions regarding the report, there were none.

## Old Business:

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** Tom O'Neill addressed the Board:
  1. Tom had sent an email regarding micro plastics and the effects on beaches and marshes. He thought it may be something the Board would like to take up and explore further. Bill Carey stated that he was aware of the importance of the micro plastics study and perhaps we could find a way to inform the public of the importance of keeping plastics out of the ocean and marshes.
  2. Tom spoke about the conflict of interest training that the Board was required to participate in. Tom had sent the certificates of completion for himself, Ann Canedy, and Bill Monroe to Cindy Lovell. Tom said he could send them again. Pete Sampou and Joe O'Brien had indicated they had completed the training through other Boards they were on. Tom said as far as he knew, everyone on the Sandy Neck Board had completed the training. Kris Clark asked if Tom would please send to Cindy Lovell again. Tom said he would and copy Kris Clark.
- 2. Economic sustainability.** None
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.** None.

**New Business:** None

**Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:** Pete Sampou came in late to the meeting. Pete responded to the question of micro plastics and stated that he thought the Board time would be better spent with issues directly dealing with Sandy Neck as micro plastics is a global problem.

**Public Comment:** None

## **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by roll call vote at 7:32 pm. Tom O'Neill yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Pete Sampou, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

### Attachments:

1. Slides included in the Board Presentation.