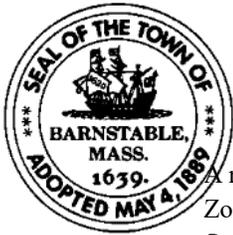


TOWN OF BARNSTABLE
SANDY NECK BOARD
1189 Phinney's Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

Tel: 508-790-6272
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting
September 13, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on September 13, 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
Maureen Piccione

Council Liaison:
Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

BarnstablePD
Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

- Board Members remotely present: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Maureen Piccione, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, and Ann Canedy.
- Board Members absent: Joe O'Brien
- 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: Steve Heslinga, Patrick Bresette, Paul Berger, and Rich French.
- Guest Speaker: None

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes. Pete Sampou, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Bill Carey, yes; Ann Canedy, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Public Comment:

- Steve Heslinga, Sandy Neck Colony Association and Patrick Bresette from the Sandy Neck Colony introduced themselves. They have decided to attend the Sandy Neck Board meeting and wish to have an opportunity to explain why they are attending. Tom O'Neill responded that if they had comment for the current agenda that would be great. Should they wish to speak to something not on the current agenda, it would be best to have it put on the next agenda to allow some time for them to cover any issues they wish to speak about. Tom said that it would need to be specific so we could have a heads up and put it correctly on the agenda. Steve Heslinga said that he and Patrick Bresette had been elected Co-Chairs of the Orders Of Conditions Committee from the Sandy Neck Cottage Colony and the stakeholders would like to have a place at the table. They wish to be included in discussions and correspondence regarding the upcoming Orders of Conditions that is to take place in 2022, as access to the properties is very important to them. They would like to have something put on the agenda for next month. Tom suggested that they liaise with Donna with specifics for next month's agenda.
- Nina Coleman addressed the Board. Orders of Conditions expire in June, 2022 and over the winter she will need to submit intent for both Cottage Colony access as well as separately for Off Road Vehicle access. Nina stated that she has the intent in draft form from the last submission.
- Steve Heslinga stated that he knows it is a long and arduous process and that is why they are interested in getting the discussion started so as to be involved right from the beginning.

Correspondence: Tom O'Neill addressed the Board:

- Tom wishes to submit into the minutes the letter he wrote on behalf of the Board to the King family regarding the passing of Nate King who served thirty plus years on the Sandy Neck Board. See attachment. Tom read the letter and a discussion followed about Nate and his service.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- We are in the off season, which is really no longer an off season as we remain very busy.
- We are deeply understaffed so please remember to be patient and considerate of the staff that is still here.
- In this part of the off season, we are still at 5 mph on the beach. Campfires at 7 pm or sunset, whichever comes first. Still need to air down and you must have an Off Road Vehicle permit. Dogs need to be leashed.
- We have 4.5 miles of beach and are able to accommodate everyone, lots of great spots out there, but we still need to be mindful of the safety and environmental concerns.
- Tom asked if there were a lot of cases with people without permits out on the beach. Nina said it hasn't been too bad. She said that generally spring is worse than fall for people going out without permits. Permits are required year round and it is very well marked stating that. Being proactive at the Gatehouse telling people without permits to go straight up to the parking lot.
- This is the first year with our new fee structure. Day after Labor Day permit cost was reduced. Barnstable Residents pay \$50 and Non-Residents pay \$100. Those fees are in place until the day after Columbus Day. Fees are further reduced after that.
- Still selling a lot of Off Road Vehicle permits. Non-Resident permits especially. We made \$8,500 in the week and a half since Labor Day with \$7,500 of that being Non-Residents at \$100 per permit. Still takes a lot of effort for staff to manage busy September days so it was a good move to price the permits where they are so we can still have a good revenue stream in the fall. Some campers purchase day after Labor Day with most sales being daytrippers.
- It is Diamondback Terrapin hatching season. We have some hatchlings in the garage getting ready to send out to schools and organizations as part of our head-start program. Had a banner year with 400 plus nests. With all the activity on the Marsh Tail with hatchlings we are trying to get Cottage Owners to take Trail 6 out to the Cottage Colony.
- Labor Day went very well. It was a big camper weekend. And last weekend was busy as well with the beautiful weather.
- CoastSweep is being held on Sunday, September 19th from 9 am to Noon. We will provide the bags and gloves for those who wish to participate in helping clean the beach.
- This is the year for the Deer hunt. Proposed date for the archery hunt is November 22nd through the 27th, with the lottery meeting to be held on November 17th. The proposed primitive weapon hunt date is December 13th through the 18th with the lottery meeting on December 8th. Generally there is a vote by the Board on the hunt. We do the hunt every other year and have done so for many years. The dates for the hunt were chosen through the state regulations and we have to follow their seasons and pick weeks within those seasons and pick the dates for archery and primitive weapon within those dates. Working with the hunters we get positive feedback in choosing the earlier dates as it is the rutting season.
- Tom asked if there should be a motion and a second prior to the vote.
- Pete asked Nina if it would be proper for him to submit a motion that the Board supports the controlled hunt on Sandy Neck.
- Nina said yes, for both a primitive and archery hunt.
- Pete Sampou made the motion to accept the deer hunt as it is an odd year for archery and primitive weapons on the proposed dates. Archery to be held on November 22nd through the 27th with the lottery meeting to be held on November 17th. Primitive weapons hunt to be held December 13th through the 18th with the lottery meeting to be held on December 8th.
- Tom asked for the vote. Pete asked for a second. Ann Canedy seconded. The vote: Pete Sampou, yes; Ann Canedy, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Bill Carey, abstain; Maureen Piccione, yes; Tom O'Neill yes. Motion carried with 1 abstention and 5 yes votes.
- **Point of Order** from Bill Carey. He wanted to know if there needed to be a discussion prior to the vote.
- Tom O'Neill agreed. Motion and vote had to be withdrawn so the discussion regarding the deer hunt and all its components could be brought for discussion.
- Bill Carey stated that in years past that there were some field studies as to the population of the deer on Sandy Neck supporting the idea of a deer hunt on Sandy Neck.
- Nina responded that we used to do transect work to determine population, but it has become too dangerous for staff with the Lone Star tick being out there. Now we look at sign and staff observations to determine potential population. It is usually during the rut when the deer population increases on Sandy Neck. Generally they come across the Great Marsh at the time of the rut, but even prior to the rut we have seen lots of sign of deer. Both track and bedding down areas. Ann said she has seen them swimming across the harbor.
- Tom wanted to know what the potential population is. And what the average hunt take is.
- Nina said that there are twelve deer allowed to be taken for the entire hunt. She asked Donna if she could remember the number from the last hunt.

- Donna replied that she believed there were five deer taken for the whole hunt. She indicated a healthy population.
- Tom said that it would be helpful if there were a record of the takes in past hunts as information for the Board as well as the public when deciding the vote for the hunt.
- Pete asked if there were any observations or indications from staff of browsing or excessive browsing that may put pressure on the plant life indicating overpopulation.
- Tom suggested that the hunt be put on the agenda next time so we can prepare for the discussion in the future.
- Pete made a motion that the Board revisit and revote on the original motion for the proposed deer hunt,
- Tom asked to restate the motion and second and vote now that the discussion was finished.
- Tom made a motion to cancel the previous motion that was previously voted on. Bill Carey seconded the motion. Pete Sampou, yes; Bill Carey, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Ann Canedy, yes.; Tom O'Neill, yes. Motion to cancel previous vote passed.
- Hearing no further requests for discussion, Tom asked Pete to state the new motion regarding the deer hunt.
- Pete Sampou made the motion to accept the deer hunt as it is an odd year for archery and primitive weapons on the proposed dates. Archery to be held on November 22nd through the 27th with the lottery meeting to be held on November 17th. Primitive weapons hunt to be held December 13th through the 18th with the lottery meeting to be held on December 8th. Ann Canedy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion. Ann Canedy, yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes. Motion was carried.
- Nina asked if there were any questions regarding the staff report.
- Bill Carey asked that, based on the numbers of Diamondback Terrapin nests, Nina is talking about numbers in the thousands that are being produced. Nina said yes but turtles make a lot of eggs and hatchlings because a lot of them are lost in the first go around so that is the strategy of the species. So when a thousand eggs are hatched only a small percentage survive.
- Pete asked that considering the apparent success of the turtles in the Marsh, are we distributing stock to other estuaries up in our area. Nina replied that would be something that the state would have to guide us to. In the Great Marsh proper we are a source for other areas. We are seeing the nesting spreading out in the Marsh in other areas more than where typical.
- Bill Carey asked if there were more nests than just in the Sandy Neck area and Nina said yes, on both sides of the Marsh.
- Tom O'Neill said his wife Margi, who volunteers for Cape Wildlife, informed him that only one to two percent of the hatchlings make it.
- Nina asked if Officer Kelsey had anything to add to the staff report.
- Officer Kelsey said that he wished to commend the staff for what they did this summer. It was a very challenging situation. They did an incredible job and he wanted to put that on record.

Old Business:

- 1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None
- 2. Economic sustainability.** None
- 3. Public outreach and public use & participation.** Bill Monroe addressed the Board
 1. Bill spoke about the Halfway House and increasing the utilization. Over the winter Bill would like to get a working group together comprised of staff and Board members together to help put together a plan to increase usage. Tom O'Neill asked to add a subheading regarding the Halfway House under public outreach. Natural Resource Officer Hannah Lawrence and Bill had begun to develop some programs. Nina said there was a group of artists coming out but because of the Delta Variant it wouldn't be happening this fall. Bill Carey asked about usage and Bill said zero for the past couple of years. Bill Carey said maybe we are too restrictive. Tom said we need the deed restrictions. Donna will add the sub heading under Public outreach. Pete said the insurance rider is the most important for use for any damages to the Halfway House. Use for education and non-profit. Bill Carey suggested legal counsel regarding use. Pete said he didn't want the staff to have to be responsible to clean it up.

New Business: Nina Coleman addressed the Board. Each September we put the new fees on the agenda but we pursue the raising of fees every other year and we raised the fees incrementally this season.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Public Comment:

1. Tom O'Neill asked if anyone from the Board was going to CoastSweep. Bill Monroe said he was attending.
2. Rich French said he was a little late and wanted to know if there was discussion about Nate King's Passing. Tom O'Neill said a letter to Nate's family was entered into the minutes. Rich said he would be happy to help with The Halfway House.
3. Patrick Bresette said he was happy to hear of all the work being done and glad to be here.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by roll call vote at 7:58 pm. Tom O'Neill yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Pete Sampou, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes, Ann Canedy, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachment; Letter to the family of Nate King

**Thomas O'Neill
58 Holway Drive
PO 447
West Barnstable, MA 02668**

August 22, 2021

King Family,

On behalf of the Sandy Neck Advisory Board, please accept our deepest sympathies on Nate's passing.

Nate proudly served the Town of Barnstable for decades as a member of the Sandy Neck board. I had the pleasure of meeting Nate when I joined the board in 2013 and will miss his calm demeanor, sense of humor and sage advice. As we dealt with the many issues facing Sandy Neck, Nate was always able to lean on his vast experience to bring us the context we needed to help address today's challenges. This was always appreciated.

The success we have had as a board over many years has been a result of the dedication of town residents who have stepped forward and given up their time to help sustain and grow this amazing Sandy Neck resource. Nate played a critical role in this effort.

We will all miss Nate. Our prayers are with your family.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Neill
Chairman, Sandy Neck Advisory Board