



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD

1189 Phinney's Lane
Centerville, MA 02632

Tel: 508-790-6272

Fax: 508-790-6275

Sandy Neck Board Meeting

June 09, 2008

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell

Nate King

George Muhlebach

Peter Sampou

Council Liaison:

Henry Farnham

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 09, 2008 at the Marine and Environmental Affairs Division Building at 1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: George Muhlebach, Barbara Bell, Pete Sampou, Rich French, Bill Carey
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem
- Council Liaison: Hank Farnham
- Public: Wendy Bowles, Cathy Fillman, Steve Heslinga and Lynne Heslinga

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the May minutes as printed.

The Chairman took the agenda item *New Business* out of order.

New Business:

Guest Speaker - Dr. Jonathan Way, Barnstable High School Teacher and Researcher of Eastern Coyotes. Dr. Way currently has a Special Permit to conduct coyote research on Sandy Neck.

Highlights / Overview:

- Since 1998, Jon has worked on several coyote projects mainly (1) box trapping and radio collaring and (2) studying their ecology - what they do in the wild. He currently has a trap baited near the gatehouse. He believes Sandy Neck has 3 to 5 adult coyotes plus their pups and he would like to collar a female.
- Now has 9 collared coyotes in Barnstable – Sandwich area. Tracks 2/3 times a week.
- The coyotes are usually found on Trails 4 & 5. He likes Sandy Neck because its natural setting is suitable for research. He has found the coyotes are eating shellfish and rodents.
- Regarding the effects of coyotes on plovers, he thinks that the coyotes may be keeping the skunks, foxes and raccoons away and they are the animals that hurt/kill [impact] the plovers. He does not believe the coyotes hurt the plovers and/or their nests. He does not think coyotes eat fox, skunks or raccoons but rather kill or scare them away because they are competitors.
- Nina Coleman asked if he knew about studies involving “tainted eggs” as a way to keep predators away. Dr. Peter Auger spoke with Nina about this method. Jon did not know of any [studies] but he is familiar with adverse conditioning and felt that may be a good project to undertake. Perhaps a graduate student would be interested. “Negative, non-lethal experiences” might work including such things as bright lights and noises and Jon would be interested in working with Nina on this type of project.
- The Board asked Jon if he would come back in September to report on his summer activity.

Correspondence:

- None

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman:

- Last weekend was great – very busy. Beach is open for 4.1 miles. Celebrating high school graduates were on Sandy Neck this weekend but [thankfully] no incidents. Police were present. No major enforcements. No medical emergencies.
- Open to Trail 5. Chicks between Trail 5 and Trail 6. No nests currently between access trail and Trail 2. Two nights ago [based on tracks] there was evidence of predation on plover and tern nests by coyotes. Three pairs of nests on the public beach near Sandwich end.
- The gatehouse is open every day – almost fully staffed. Minor bathhouse repairs and painting inside are done.
- Town Council approved the \$50,000 funding (taken from the Sandy Neck surplus account) for the permitting consultant. There is another meeting with the State re: the new bathhouse and Interpretive Center on June 25th.
- Budget for FY 09 was level funded and approved. There was a small increase in vehicle repairs. Pay raise were approved for seasonal life guards and gatehouse attendants which match increases at Recreation Dept. It was hard to fill those positions because they were not competitive with other Cape towns. However, the pay raise did not include Seasonal Natural Resource Officers. We are having trouble filling those positions. There is money in the budget to cover all raises.

*On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to write a letter of support to increase the Seasonal Natural Resource Officer salary to \$13/per hour. Rich French will send email to Lynne Poyant.*

Old Business:

♦ Budget items for next fiscal year:

Rich French: Think about budget items that need to be addressed for the next budget.

Nina Coleman: Remember - if you want something “new” or something that costs money – you will have to raise the price of stickers to cover the costs. Do not look to dipping into surplus.

♦ Notice of Intent (NOI) - update on the “thirty minute rule”

Rich French: For review: ConComm held their meeting re: the Sandy Neck Notice of Intent and granted a new Order of Conditions (OOC) based on the recommendation from Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). In the new OOC, the 30 minute rule has now been eliminated. In speaking with NHESP, they have no intention of putting the 30 minute rule back into the OCC. Appeals have been made by the Cottage Owners. A meeting was held with the cottagers and their Attorney, Town Staff, 2 Sandy Neck Board Members, and the Town Attorney. They are working on wording that will be acceptable to all regarding this access issue by the cottage colony people.

Steve Heslinga (representing the cottage owners): There is an appeal before Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). That is on hold while these negotiations are on-going. The second appeal is of the town’s bylaw through the court. There are two remedies of appeal available to the cottage owners. At tomorrow night’s ConComm meeting, the tentative hearing for the 30 minute rule has been tabled – not withdrawn – while they work on an agreement with the cottage owners and the town regarding escort issues. They are working on a creative, careful management policy.

Nina Coleman: Is working with the legal department and others regarding the language for this policy for management.

Pete Sampou: This is a management of the current OOC, a codification of the current permit on a local level. This is a negotiation between the cottage owners and the Park Manager regarding the management of the beach.

Steve Heslinga: The cottagers are working on the wording. Their Attorney, the Town Attorney, and the Park Manager will stay without the state guidelines. It will be a supplement to the current OCC.

Pete Sampou: Make sure you stay within any endangered species rules and regulations. The language must be appropriate for all to agree upon.

♦ Bathhouse update:

Rich French: The bathhouse is open. It has new windows, new furniture, and will “last” another year. There is a meeting with the State regarding the new bathhouse on June 25th.

♦ **Barnstable Dredge Project:**

Rich French: It is his understanding that the permits are in place.

Hank Furnham: He will check into the funding and report back to the Board.

Bill Carey: Can we make sure make sure the dredge spoils are still going to Sandy Neck.

New Business (cont'd.):

- None

Public Comment:

Kathy Fillman: MBBA is formally requesting permission to hold the 15th Annual Everill Mackey Fishing Derby on September 19- 21, 2008. It will be the same as previous years. She will work with Nina Coleman on this project.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem