



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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Sandy Neck Board Meeting August 09, 2010

Chairman:

Richards French

Vice Chairman:

William Carey

Board Members:

Barbara Bell
Lynn Heslinga
Nate King
George Muhlebach
Peter Sampou

Council Liaisons:

Henry Farnham
Ann Canedy

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on August 09, 2010 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Rich French.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Barbara Bell, Lynn Heslinga, Nate King, Peter Sampou, George Muhlebach, Bill Carey, and Rich French.
- Council Liaison: none
- Staff: Nina Coleman, Sandy Neck Park Manager, and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: none

Act on Minutes:

- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Sandy Neck Board voted unanimously to approve the June minutes as printed.
- On a **motion** by Barbara Bell and seconded by George Muhlebach, the Sandy Neck Board voted to approve the July minutes as corrected. There were three minor typos. Lynn Heslinga, Nate King, Peter Sampou, and Bill Carey all abstained from voting because they were not at the July meeting.

Correspondence:

Letter read by Rich French from Pamela Buck, SNCA member (letter on file). She would like clarification. She states "there is some confusion as to whether the daily fee is governed by the official opening and closing times of the bathing beach or by 24 hours from the time the guest vehicle has arrive." Nina Coleman explained that is it very clear. In all Barnstable beaches – Sandy Neck included – the parking is for the calendar day. A parking fee is charged from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm. After 3:30 pm there is no charge but if your vehicle is in the parking lot the next day (after 8:00 am) – there will be a "new" daily charge. This fee has been in place for many years and the gatehouse staff is aware of this rule. There is no charge to park from 3:30 pm to 8:00 am.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board:

- The beach is open 1.1 miles because of an 18 day old plover chick that "appeared". It can not fly and hopefully it will fledge by next weekend. When it fledges, the beach will open to 2.1 miles. Good cooperation and understanding from the campers regarding this unfledged plover chick. Everyone who wanted to camp was still accommodated.
- At 2.1 miles there are a handful of terns. (more on this later tonight.)
- Jr. Ranger program was very successful. There were 2 sessions with 10 kids each and all 20 will "graduate" tomorrow.
- Flora and Fauna Hike on Sandy Neck will be Tuesday, August 17th at 10 am. More information available at <http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/SandyNeckPark/events/eventshome.aspx>
- Rich and Nina will go before Town Council on Sept. 5th regarding the changes to the Town Ordinances with regard to Sandy Neck. These changes were reviewed and recommended by the Sandy Neck board last winter.
- The "burn" of the bathhouse will be sometime in Sept. Definite date will be announced at the Sept. 13th Sandy Neck Board Meeting.

Old Business:

Bathhouse Update

Rich French addressed the Board:

- Meetings ongoing for electrical and wiring progressing along.
- The RFP was “hung up” in the legal dept. Anticipate bidding to go out shortly.
- Final completion date still anticipated for April 2011.

Town of Sandwich Fee Discussion

Nina Coleman: The Town of Sandwich pays a fee every year because we honor their resident beach stickers at Sandy Neck. Presently, the beach is used approximately 1/3 by Barnstable residents, 1/3 by Sandwich residents and 1/3 by daily sticker sales. In FY 10, the Town of Sandwich paid \$38, 633 and in FY 11 they will pay \$39,599.

Rich French: The Board needs to tell the [Barnstable] Town Manager how they would like to proceed regarding any increase to Sandwich. Do we want to stay with the old formula (increase by 2.5%) or not take any money from Sandwich and in exchange not honor the Sandwich beach stickers.

Nina Coleman: Approximately 6,000 vehicles from Sandwich go through the gate (during business hours).

Bill Carey: Should we only honor Town of Barnstable stickers and make everyone else pay the daily fee? Should Sandwich residents be treated the same as every other non resident? Should the \$15 daily fee apply?

Rich French: We have a responsibility to look at everything regarding money coming into Sandy Neck. This must be done before the fiscal year to allow for Sandwich to adjust.

Pete Sampou: Likes the idea of a Sandy Neck only parking permit for all non residents. Do we need a “lump sum” amount needed to just the fee or should we go to user based fees?

Rich French: The Board needs to let the [Barnstable] Town Manager how they want to proceed regarding any potential increases to cover the new bathhouse. Too soon to tell.

George Muhlebach: We need to take out the politics and look at the numbers – including worse case scenarios. We need a number-based justifiable assumption of need. Perhaps give Sandwich a few options and then let them decide how they want to go.

Pete Sampou: Only Sandwich has the “luxury” of having their beach stickers honored at Sandy Neck.

Rich French asked George Muhlebach and Bill Carey to look at the number/data and come up with the different scenarios for the next meeting. Nina will provide them with any information they need.

Rich French will write an email to Town Manager Klimm telling him about the Board’s discussion regarding the Sandwich Fee schedule.

Cottage Colony Guest Parking Discussion

Rich French: Last month, the Board asked the Chairman to look into off site parking at (1) Meetinghouse Farm and (2) Old Sullies Gas Station next to the West Barnstable cemetery. He was told that liability is the issue – and “no” the Town would not agree to it. He did not ask about the triangular green in front of the farm and the church (corner of Route 149 and Cedar Street). He did not ask so as to not get a “no” answer. People do park there and he would not and can not give permission but will say that people do park there. There are no signs regarding parking. It is a town road.

Bill Carey: Should we change the parking rules for Bodfish to accommodate cottagers and allow them to park outside the usual times and not pay?

Rich French: That is not a good alternative at this time.

Taisto Ranta Memorial Discussion

Barbara Bell and Nate King have worked on this project. They want a big boulder put in front of new bathhouse in honor of Taisto Ranta. They are still working on the inscription which will be carved into the bolder – not a plaque. More information to follow.

Note:

Nestor “Knutte” Silva passed away. He was a former member of the Sandy Neck Board. Nina/Rich French will send a sympathy card from the Board to his family.

New Business:**Tern Update**

Nina Coleman: Sandy Neck Beach Park was granted a Conservation Management Permit from the State that will allow a limited number of self contained vehicles escorts past unfledged tern chicks. This is a huge undertaking and the first time a permit of this kind has ever been issued to an ORV beach on Cape Cod. Sandy Neck is the only beach to get this kind of permit. Nina has worked on this permit for the past four years.

Rich French: This was a big undertaking. Nina and the Sandy Neck staff have worked hard protecting the wildlife at Sandy Neck and it has paid off with the issuance of this permit. They should all be commended.

Nina Coleman: The permit will be for

- (1) self contained vehicles only / no day trippers or chase vehicles
- (2) Friday / Saturday / Sunday only and Monday = Labor Day only
- (3) no more than 7 vehicles
- (4) can not pass more than 5 unfledged chicks only starting after August 20th
- (5) tern shelters are required
- (6) a study will be done on the tern chicks.

Other Business:

Tomorrow night [August 10th] David Crocker will give a presentation about the history of Sandy Neck at the *Tales of Cape Cod*.

Public Comment:

- none

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem