



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting **January 10, 2022**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on January 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm by remote Zoom meeting.

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

CouncilLiaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

BarnstablePD

Liaison:
Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members remotely present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Bill Monroe, Maureen Piccione, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, Ann Canedy(late), and Joe O'Brien (late).

Board Members absent: none.

Staff: Division Director Natural Resources, Nina Coleman, and Hannah Lawrence, Natural Resource Officer.

Staff Member absent: Donna Bragg, Operations Supervisor.

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison: Chris Kelsey

Public: Patrick Bresette, Wendy Paquette

Guest Speaker: None

Act on Minutes:

On a **motion** by Bill Monroe and seconded by Ann Canedy, the Sandy Neck Board voted by Roll call to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes. Ann Canedy yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes; Pete Sampou, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Public Comment: Wendy Paquette addressed the Board.

Wendy announced that she has been elected the president of Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association, (MBBA), for 2022. Tom O'Neill congratulated Wendy on behalf of the Board and said that MBBA has been a great asset for Sandy Neck and we all look forward to continuing to work together.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report:

Nina Coleman addressed the Board.

- We have started the 2022 Off Road Vehicle Permit sales.
- The 2021 Off Road Vehicle Permits expire on April 15, 2022.
- New permits will be valid January 1 to the following January 15.
- The intent is to move all permitting that Nina is in charge of as well as Marine and Environmental Affairs Department to a calendar year.
- In the past everything was done by mail and now moving to an online, more user friendly system.
- On the fourth of January, 2022 an email was sent out to all 2021 permit holders with permitting renewal information via email.
- Staff processing permits in the winter months instead of in the busy month of April is a better use of staff instead of the busy month of April when we are concentrating on the Plover Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP).
- Staff is at the Gatehouse fielding calls and helping patrons navigate the technology of the new system for permitting. Patrons can also email staff at sandyneck@town.barnstable.ma.us. Staff responds quickly should anyone need assistance.
- Barnstable resident permits are blue this year. The ORV tee shirt will be blue this year.
- Regulations have been approved by the Town Manager and will be going out with the new permits. The cover of the regulation booklet is blue.
- Winter Off Road Vehicle hours are 8am to 4pm. No campfires allowed. The Off Road Vehicle Beach is sometimes closed due to storms or extreme high tides. We post that information on the website.
- The Sandy Neck deer hunt has taken place. Three deer taken in the two weeks of the hunt. One during archery and two during primitive weapons.
- Snowy Owls are seen on Sandy Neck. There was a release of three owls that had been taken from Logan Airport and relocated. A discussion followed regarding Snowy Owls and why they come here as well as feeding habits. Tom spoke about the importance of staying at a safe distance from the birds. It is not legal to harass wildlife and for their safety and continued wellbeing we need to be respectful.

Old Business: None.

1. Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines. None.

2. Economic sustainability. None.

3. Public outreach and public use & participation. None.

4. Questions: Tom asked Nina about the cost to Sandy Neck for the dune nourishment sand that has been placed in the lower parking lot from the dredging project. Nina said that the cost of hauling the sand was part of the cost of the project and funding not coming from Sandy Neck. There may be some costs associated with the spreading of the sand in the spring. Tom responded that it was a good thing. In his report to the Town Council Tom noted that 2021 revenue was up fifty percent. A good year following a bad year due to Covid. Tom said the Board's focus remains economic sustainability regarding long term effects that impact the beach. He asked Board members to keep up their efforts in looking at and reporting to the Board anything of interest on focus areas. Ann said that Patrick Bresette had sent the Board an article on whales and the relationship with Cape Cod. Patrick said the article also spoke to the cold stunned turtles from the Cape and how they were transported to Texas. *See attached article.

Bill Carey asked if the amount of sand in the parking lot was sufficient for fixing the front dune. Nina responded that it will depend on any additional storms. The sand must be placed by April first. It may be at least 3,000 cubic yards of sand and the last time we placed 4,000 plus cubic yards. Kris asked how long the sand was being held in New Bedford. Nina said it was a quick turnaround and the material dewatering process was much better than the last time. Materials are dry when the dewatering occurred at Blish.

New Business:

1. **Sandy Neck Beach Safety Presentation.** Natural Resource Officer, Hannah Lawrence addressed the Board: Summary of report:

- Fourteen incidents in total on Sandy Neck for 2021. Six of which were medical. Big year for Off Road Vehicle use with relatively few issues.
- Recap of 2020 solutions implemented. More discretion with managing closures and beach capacity. Dogs on leash year-round. Reservation system for campers (when beach availability is limited). Revisions to Habitat Conservation Plan, (HCP), to potentially increase beach access. Gatehouse /Sandy Neck Road safety. Permanent stop signs. Speed Radar on Sandy Neck Road. Pedestrian crossing signs. Parking lot safety. Scraped back encroaching sediment to increase parking availability and emergency access. Re-painted lower parking lot to alleviate parking issues. Changes to Off Road Vehicle (ORV) permits to address the busier fall “off-season” with a three tiered permit system.
- 2021 solutions implemented. Implementation of Lynxlog database. Department wide online permitting and incident tracking system. Online camper reservations. Online ORV instructional video. regulation change for curfew to more align with Barnstable Police Department shift change, and Increased Harbor Master presence and patrols off Sandy Neck.
- Report on verbal warnings with noticeable downward trend for 2021. Thirty-two written citations.
- Off Road Vehicle permits, 4,584 sold for 2021. Camper nights 4,001. Permit sales up 42% from previous year. Camper nights up 34% from previous year.
- Aggressive behavior for 2021 was at three with Barnstable Police Department responding to one. No assaults reported this year.
- Off Road Vehicle Permit required was the most common infraction in 2021. All others were down a bit.
- Overall incidents trended down in 2021.
- 2022 looking forward. Continue to adjust to Covid-19. Full time Natural Resource Officer completing Emergency Medical Technician, (EMT), training. Permanent speed bumps at Gatehouse. Pedestrian crossing visibility. Improve parking lot safety. Poor curb stop visibility. Make more visible. Improve the lower parking lot. Deter ORV patrons from parking in the lot. Continue to provide a family friendly environment. Continue to update rules and regulations to provide a safe atmosphere. Continue to investigate ways to avoid conflict between user groups. We have seen an increase in usage by all user groups in the shoulder season and with that there are more negative wildlife/human/pet interactions, and hunter/hiker interactions. Dealing with the continuing Cape-wide available worker shortage.
- 2023 and beyond. Investigating limiting campers by size, class and beach availability. Continue to work on the Long-term Sandy Neck Coastal Resiliency Project. Re-analyze new solutions with changing issues.
- Questions. Bill Carey about the emergency medical responses on Sandy Neck. Hannah responded to a variety of medical issues. Examples were wounds from falling, and heat exhaustion. Tom asked to look at the warning and citation slide. He commented that the trends from warnings to citations were larger. Hannah responded that past offences play a part in determining in what the infraction will incur. Discussion regarding alcohol related incidents trending downward. There seems to be a trend to more families on the beach and that may be part of it. Bill Carey asked if there is a way to correlate daily usage density of campers to lower incidents, as well as reducing the curfew. Nina said that it is a loose correlation but agreed that those factors are having an impact in reducing incidents. Maureen said that there were higher Non-Resident sales for use for vacation and then they would not be using the beach other than that. Tom said the team is doing a detailed and great job.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment: Wendy Paquette asked Nina why drones were not allowed on Sandy Neck. Nina responded that they are prohibited through the FAA within a certain distance from any airport and Sandy Neck is close to the Marstons Mills airport. Discussion regarding harassing wildlife followed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by roll call vote at 7:501pm. Ann Canedy, yes; Bill Carey, yes; Bill Monroe, yes; Joe O'Brien, yes; Maureen Piccione, yes; Pete Sampou, yes; Tom O'Neill, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:

https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/sea-turtle-migration?utm_medium=atlas-page&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2xufUknIaTWqQMlaVuioNJZx-wicMTtMICv-guTG8fxTUiPgLNq4wv7M



2021 Sandy Neck
Safety Solutions.pptx