



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

SANDY NECK BOARD
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Sandy Neck Board Meeting **June 10, 2024**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sandy Neck Board was held on June 10, 2024, at 7:08 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Chair:

Thomas O'Neill

Vice Chair:

Peter Sampou

Board Members:

William Carey
William Monroe
Maureen Piccione
Rene King
Rich French

Council Liaison:

Gordon Starr
Kris Clark

Barnstable

PD Liaison:

Chris Kelsey

Roll Call:

Board Members present by roll call: Tom O'Neill, Pete Sampou, Bill Carey, Maureen Piccione, and Rich French.

Board Members absent: Bill Monroe, and Rene King.

Staff: Sandy Neck Park Manager, Nina Coleman, and Operations Supervisor, Donna Bragg.

Staff Member absent:

Council Liaisons present: Kris Clark.

Barnstable Police Liaison:

Public: Wendy Paquette.

Guest Speaker: Greyson Hickey, Eagle Scout candidate, and Jerry Hickey, Troop 54.

Act on Minutes:

On a motion from Bill Carey and seconded by Pete Sampou, the Board voted on the acceptance of the May 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

Notes from the Chair: *Taken out of order. Tom O'Neill addressed the Board. Tom read the prepared statement regarding recording the meeting. Tom spoke about all Board members getting up to date with conflict of interest training. He had sent out an email to the Board with instruction. Send certificate of completion of the course to Tom. We are to have Board Member Elections in July. Nina said to keep it on the agenda and it can be deferred to August meeting, if necessary, as Tom has not heard anything from the Town Council.

Correspondence: None.

Staff Report: Nina Coleman addressed the Board. * See attached report.

- ORV (Off-Road), Beach currently open 0.5 miles.
- Cottage Owners using Trial 1 or an escort.
- Daytrippers must park with their headlights facing the dunes.
- Camper spots on the front beach delineated by cones.
- Gatehouse is open 8am-9pm daily.
- ORV (Off-Road), Beach is open 8am-10pm. Campfires allowed at 7pm.
- The speed limit is 5mph on ORV(Off-Road), Beach.
- **Upcoming Events:**
- 6/13 In Search of Diamondback Terrapin Hike 10am-Noon.
- 6/18 Sandy Neck Plover Walk 10am-Noon.
- 6/27 Off-Road Vehicle, (ORV), 101 course open to all, 5:30-7pm. Email Gatehouse to register. Sandyneck@town.barnstable.ma.us
- Junior Rangers begins July 10th. Sign up through the Recreation Department. Kris Clark asked if there was a limit to how many Junior Rangers. Donna said it was limited to twelve participants. Nina said she believed that there was financial help for those who needed it.
- **Sandy Neck Staff Training. Preparation for July 4th.**
- BPD Cottage Colony Fire Drill. Multiple agencies.
- Wbfd Drill. Multiple agencies.
- Police training for Field Staff and Supervisors.
- CPR/AED/ Stop the bleed training.
- Weekly Staff meeting.
- We do not have Lifeguards again this year.
- One full-time staff member has obtained an open water Lifeguard Certification.
- Two additional full-time staff members will be obtaining Lifeguard training.
- The Sandy Neck jet ski is operational.
- Natural Resource Officer, Ann Marie Luppino is in EMT Training.
- Barnstable Police truck is stationed at the Gatehouse for details on the ORV Beach.
- Headstart Diamondback Terrapin releases are in full swing. We had 28 schools and organizations participating in the headstart program and released 36 turtles. Some turtles have been pit-tagged prior to release to hopefully be identified in the years to come. The children who release the terrapins become invested in Sandy Neck and in conservation and the biology of the terrapin life cycle.
- Habitat Conservation Program, (HCP), Nina showed an overview slide of the HCP, provided by Steve Heaslip, which showed all the methods used to deter plovers from nesting in the HCP area.
- We have sixty-five plover nests and counting. Nina explained about the HCP. We have the ability to deter three pairs of plovers and to date we have deterred two pairs. Nina showed the map of plover nest locations on Sandy Neck. The plover nests are very close to one another and there are eight nests between Trail 1 and Trail 2.
- The HCP is working, and the .5 miles is very wide so we can accommodate a lot of vehicles.
- We will use the push notifications, as needed, for any closures due to capacity on the Off-Road Vehicle Beach.
- Nina explained the layout of all the plovers throughout the Town of Barnstable. For the past two years we have broken all records for plover nests and this year with sixty-nests we have broken the record again.
- Massachusetts is doing well with plovers, but we are in the global network, numbers are down.
- Very successful efforts to maintain the HCP and deter the plovers. A discussion about the efforts to maintain a place for people to drive on the beach. It was agreed that the public needs more information to see how hard the Staff works to keep the beach partially open.
- We have merchandise and Nina will bring merchandise to the next Board meeting to view.

Old Business:

- **Conservation and beach erosion along our coastlines.** None.
- **Economic sustainability.** Sandy Neck fee discussions to take place in September.
- **Public outreach and public use & participation.** None.
- **Sandy Neck Beach Reconfiguration Project Update.** Tom addressed the Board. We have received the Orders of Conditions from the Conservation Commission. The Historical Commission does not need to go any further with the archeological dig. Nothing of importance was discovered. The project team is working on the final design and anticipate completing the final design by the end of June. The team is still working with Natural Heritage regarding the conservation plan for Spadefoot Toads. Grants are in process, and we should hear over the summer from some and will be applying for others also. Tom said we are on track with the project and funding will be the next hurdle.

New Business: *Taken out of order.

1. Greyson Hickey, Eagle Scout candidate, Sandy Neck Project Proposal Presentation. Jerry Hickey, Scoutmaster Troop 54, Centerville, introduced Greyson.
Greyson Hickey addressed the Board. Greyson outlined his project proposal for Sandy Neck. He will design and build at least two, maybe three informational kiosks for Sandy Neck. These kiosks will be placed in locations used by the public and will contain pertinent information about Sandy Neck. The Kiosks will put all the information patrons will need in a convenient location. Greyson outlined the process, including planning, final design, procuring materials needed, and including other scouts and parents in the process of building and installation. Kiosks will include information about the park, including upcoming events and safety information while visiting the park. Greyson was asked what kind of support he would need from Sandy Neck and the Board. They would need a workspace. Nina said they could do their project by the garage. There were questions regarding digging in the sand. The question of funding was brought up. Greyson said they were holding a car washing fundraiser at Party Freeze on West Main Street on June 22, 2024, from 10am to 2pm to raise funds for the project. Nina said to do some fundraising and then come and talk to her regarding what Sandy Neck can do. Bill Carey asked about people being able to drop off donations to Sandy Neck. Nina said that would be great and people can contact her or Donna for information. ***See attached presentation.**
2. Board Proposals for the Halfway House. Tom addressed the Board regarding better usage of the Halfway House. One of his ideas is to approach Cape Wildlife to see if they have any interest in holding meetings out at the Halfway House. His second idea is to approach Community Connections with the possibility of some of their folks enjoying the Halfway House. Bill Carey asked how many people could sleep out there. Pete said around ten children. Bill said maybe we need to focus on day trips instead. The discussion from last month with Board Member, Rene King, was to have some of the underserved children in our community use the Halfway House for the day. There was discussion regarding focusing on day trips and working out transportation for these excursions. Nina said we do a lot of outreach throughout the town with youngsters. Nina said the groups coming would have to be self-sustaining and the curriculum would have to come from the group itself. Donna said five or so can be transported out at a time. Needs to be a focus group. Tom said we need to keep bringing ideas to the table. Donna said all the information is on the Sandy Neck website regarding the use of the Halfway House.

Matters not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None.

Public Comment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Bragg, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments:



Greyson Hickey
Eagle Project Propo:



June 10th – Staff
Report.pptx