

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JOINT MEETING WITH CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE SUPERINTENDENT GEORGE PRICE AND CCNSGMPIAC

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2006

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

Chairman Cheryl Andrews convened the special meeting at 5:00 PM noting the following attendees: Board of Selectmen members: Cheryl Andrews, Sarah Peake, Michele Couture, Richard Olson, David Nicolau

Other attendees: Town Manager Keith Bergman, CCNSGMPIAC Member John Thomas, Provincetown's CCNS Advisory Commission Alternate Representative Alix Ritchie

Other attendees: Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent George Price

Recorder: Vernon G. Porter

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

1. CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE SUPERINTENDENT Joint Meeting with CCNSGMPIAC re: Dune Shacks, ORV Beach Closures

Opening remarks by Chairman Andrews as to reason of this joint meeting and welcoming Superintendent Price.

Chairman Andrews turned meeting over to Superintendent Price who explained his reasoning for the National Park's position on the Dune Shacks and the closing of the beaches. (Clements property and the passing of Mrs. Flower)

Closing of the beaches - Multiple nestlings causing pull-line road to be closed.

Mr. Price indicated that he has received hundreds of calls and realizes how it affects individuals and businesses and that is the reason why the public hearing is scheduled for tomorrow evening - Tuesday, July 18, 2006. He stated that recreational vehicle access does not trump the welfare of the birds ... there is a law that says that the birds have to be protected and as birds become more successful, we can expect more nesting pairs and these issues will increase. I don't want to give any false hopes that this going to go away because it is not. There are higher standards for Federal Agencies as set by Congress.

We hope that at our public hearing tomorrow night there will be more specifics answered. We anticipate figuring out a forum in the off-season.

Sarah Peake - What I have heard is that we need greater flexibility. We are asking you to broaden your view and your vision as people come together to address his subject – not the same old way of doing business. Think of new ways to address the issue.

John Thomas ask Superintendent Price to answer the questions as presented to him in the letter from the Board of Selectmen dated July 11, 2006 starting with ORV.

Alix Ritchie – Spoke on the purpose of CCNS Advisory Committee – and purpose of collaborative process and that the collaborative process has never been taken lightly and is disappointed that the Seashore has not take part in this process. I'm on the Dune Shack Subcommittee and it was a surprise to us as we were not notified of what was happening, therefore could not respond to it – we were not asked be part of the decision making process or discuss it ... it just happened. Also, I heard you say there have been changes to the Beach in the amount of beach available; seems to me that if that is what is going on then you should be talking to the Towns about it. You need to come up with come creative solutions and they may not be within the Fish and Wildlife Service or even within the Park Service, they may come from a process that is a dialogue with people may be able to come with things that nobody thought about in terms of trying to allow to be able to get to the outer

shore to fish.

I'm alarmed to think that the rule making might be considered an end to the collaborative process instead of the beginning of it. I hope that we might be able to convince you that the collaborative process is bigger than that in terms of what the Park Service has committed itself to.

Again, thinking about the experience of the Advisory Commission and why it's there that the administration of the park, which is based on the GMP, is bigger in a sense than just enforcing the law. I seriously hope that you use the Advisory Commission and that you use the public process to try and come up with creative solutions to problems and make use of the tools at hand and I'm particularly say that I really want to hear a strong commitment to collaborative process over, above and beyond specific things like rule making.

Sarah Peake - Broadening the vision of how we are going to create services. Ask that you be open and listening to the feedback.

Kerry Adams - Many of our native rights have been taken away from us. Where do the human beings fit into this picture? How many birds have ORV vehicles killed?

David Nicolau - Working together and being a collaborative effort. There has to be some middle ground where an area is built for the plovers to be able to nest.

John Thomas - Re: Dune Shacks - We don't see the Clemons-Benson as a special case. The Fowler shack is particularly disturbing.

Cheryl Andrews - Would like to hear you agree to convene a meeting of the Advisory Commission. Working with Lower Cape Towns. Show of good faith to start Dune Shack Subcommittee. Kerry Adams point is right on the money. Work at making next year a better one.

Sarah Peake - There is a great deal of urgency to reconvene the Dune Shack Committee as quickly as possible. The points that John Thomas made about the study that is going - it just leads itself to maintaining a status quo until we see what the results are.

Richard Olson - On the dune shacks - the people are there. They have their lineage and the tradition.

Summary:

The Board of Selectmen and Superintendent George Price of the Cape Cod National Seashore met about 90 minutes and it was standing room only. The Selectmen made a strong public statement to the Superintendent that Board believes the relationship between the Lower Cape Towns and the Seashore had been harmed by the management approach used this summer in the ORV/Plover issue. The Board of Selectmen believes that the Seashore can do a better job, and challenged him to work with the towns and the volunteers that represent those towns on the Advisory Commission on this issue, instead of unilaterally, which was the approach this year. The discussion was cordial and measured, but the tone was serious.

Motion to adjourn by Michele Couture at 6:33 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon G. Porter
July 17, 2006