



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

Recreation Commission

141 Bassett Lane, Hyannis, MA 02601

RECREATION COMMISSION

March 3, 2026

I. PRELIMINARIES

A. Call To Order by Rene King, Chair, at 5:30 PM

1. Notice of Recording: Please note that this meeting is being recorded and will be replayed via Xfinity Channel 8 or high-definition Channel 1072. It may also be accessed via the Government Access Channel live video on demand archives on the Town of Barnstable's website:

<https://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/10851?channel=1>

B. Roll Call

1. Commissioners Present: Rene King, Tony Lapolla, Brendan Burke, and Christina Carrington
2. Commissioners Absent: Tim Lus
3. **Also Present:** John Gleason – Director of Recreation, Mark Boardley – Hyannis Youth and Community Center Manager, Tom O'Neill – Sandy Neck Board Chair, Daniel Gomes – Youth Commission Chair.

C. Act on Minutes

1. No motion made to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting; no quorum; **NO VOTE**

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Call for Recreation Commissions – Rene King

1. There are two open seats on the Commission that need to be filled
2. 10th Annual Job Fair on March 4, 2026 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM at Hyannis Youth and Community Center has become a model that other towns have heard about, learned and are adopting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sandy Neck Update – Tom O'Neill, Sandy Neck Board Chair

1. There is a need for a commissioner to fill Rene King's position as the Sandy Neck Board Liaison
 - a. Christina Carrington, Barnstable Recreation Commissioner interested.
2. Importance of keeping an eye on revenues from the park.
3. Current project – beach reconfiguration:
 - a. Lower parking lot has been moved back about 75 feet by the current contractor Robert B. Our and a new drainage system has been created for it.
 - b. The upper parking lot has also been reconfigured to take advantage of some opportunities for additional parking.
4. Observation Deck has been built.
5. Beach accessibility has been improved by creating new walkway entrances for people of all abilities to access the beach.
6. The gatehouse is now out of the flood zone – it has been moved couple hundred yards up the road.
7. New Road system setup. Despite the weather, schedule is consistent. Paving to be done. Opening scheduled for April.
8. Youth engagement at Sandy Neck continues to be strong, particularly with the Boy Scouts, who completed a project last year building an osprey nest. The scouts presented

- their proposal to the board, provided updates, and received funding, making it a leadership opportunity for the troop.
9. A youth educational initiative was also highlighted: Hyannis West Elementary School third graders cared for a sea turtle that stayed at the school for most of the year.
 10. Through a grant secured by the Sandy Neck team, with support from the Hyannis Rotary Club and the board, Barnstable Schools students were able to spend a full day at Sandy Neck, giving many children their first visit to the beach.
 11. A March meeting will be held in the Town Council conference room led by Pete Sampo to discuss recently published Cape Cod water quality report and how it relates to water quality issues around Sandy Neck and Barnstable Harbor.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Hyannis Youth and Community Center - Mark Boardley, Hyannis Youth and Community Center Manager
 1. Administrative
 - a. The Inside Barnstable Town Government Class, previously postponed due to the storm, has been rescheduled. The event provides an opportunity to showcase the facility and inform the public about the programs and services offered there.
 2. Ice News
 - a. Several hockey tournaments were successfully hosted before and after February vacation.
 - b. The annual Lobster Pot Youth Tournament will take place March 14-16.
 - c. The final major tournament of the season, the US Coast Guard Commandant's Cup, will be held April 23-25 and will feature up to 12 teams this year.
 - d. The Butler Ice sheet is scheduled for repainting starting the week of April 27
 3. Gym/Youth Center News
 - a. A new Color Guard program, led by Jackie Keeney, was launched and is aiming at building a feeder program for the High School. Participants have been practicing for several weeks and will attend a competition in New Bedford on March 21.
 - b. A new Money Talks financial literacy program will begin on March 4. The program, developed by Steve Headley, in partnership with Hyannis Financial, will run each Wednesday in March from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Shepley Room and will cover topics such as saving, investing, and planning for college for both youth and adults.
 - c. The Indoor Track program, led by Steve Headley, recently concluded. One participant competed at the New England Vacation Youth Meet at the Reggie Lewis Center on February 18, participating in the 60 meters and 200 meters races.
 - d. The annual Cape and Islands All-Star Basketball Games will be held on March 15 at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center Gym. The boys' game will begin at 1:15 PM, followed by the girls' game at 3:30 PM.
- B. Barnstable Recreation – John Gleason, Director of Recreation
 1. Administration
 - a. The annual Massachusetts Park and Recreation Association Conference will be held at the end of March in Springfield, MA. Due to the distance, staff will stay overnight.
 - b. John Gleason, Director of Recreation, served on the conference Awards Committee, helping to review and select recipients in several categories, including students and new professionals.
 - c. The department recently purchased a new van to replace aging vehicles used for programming and services. Due to availability issues, the van is white rather than the typical red town color. Decals with the department's logo and information will be added when the weather improves.
 - d. Staff attended a recent Massachusetts Park and Recreation Association Cape and Islands regional meeting, where recreation professionals from neighboring towns

discussed shared challenges and solutions. Another regional meeting was scheduled for March 5, 2026.

- e. Staff met with Barnstable School Facilities to review summer school projects and determine available locations for the Summer Leisure Program. Conversations were productive, and registration details will be discussed later.
 - f. The Inside Barnstable Town Government class session at Hyannis Youth and Community Center was postponed due to the recent storm and power outages and has been rescheduled for March 23.
 - g. During the Inside Barnstable Town Government Class John Gleason will do a presentation, highlighting opportunities to serve on the Recreation Commission, which currently has two open seats.
2. Aquatics
- a. Aquatics operations remain active despite the winter season. Staff will again attend the John F. Kennedy Memorial Trust Fund Committee meeting to request funding for outstanding programs.
 - b. Recruitment efforts:
 - Summer seasonal job postings, including lifeguards, gate attendants, and beach aides will be promoted at the upcoming job fair.
 - Assistant Director George Noonan visited Barnstable vs. Sandwich High School swim meet to connect with current and potential lifeguards.
 - Plans underway to host a Lifeguard Certification Class this spring, with strong interest already expressed.
 - Lifeguard tryouts are scheduled for April 25, May 9, and May 30.
 - Collaboration with Town Safety Officer Megan Savage Dunn and local fire departments to implement a new joint rescue training scenario for lifeguards this summer, focusing on coordinated response from rescue through EMS transfer.
 - c. Beach parking permits:
 - On sale since late December 2025.
 - Due to a technical issue with OpenGov email notifications, the town has been promoting permits through social media and other communication channels.
 - Processing is currently up to date.
 - Staff attended a Disability Commission meeting to provide information on beach parking permits and accessibility considerations.
 - d. The Special Olympics bowling team will attend the state games in Auburn, MA in the coming weeks.
 - e. The Youth Summit for Barnstable Intermediate School seventh graders will take place March 12 at Cape Cod Community College. The program focuses on topics such as decision-making, transitioning to high school, and the impacts of drugs and alcohol.
3. Recreation Programs
- a. Spring program registration for Hyannis Youth and Community Center and Recreation programs opens for residents at 8:45 a.m. on March 4, 2026.
 - b. Summer Leisure Program registration will open April 8, 2026 with additional information and flyers to be distributed once final program locations are confirmed.
 - c. The department is seeking volunteer coaches for the youth softball program, as the program depends on parent volunteers to operate.
 - d. Storm Hernando caused disruptions to winter programming, resulting in extended program timelines and delayed starts for some early spring programs. Updates have been communicated to participants.

C. Youth Commission Update

1. Job Fair – to be held on March 4th

- a. A free event for students to meet with businesses to find a summer job, with over 30 businesses attending.

V. LIAISON'S REPORTS

- A. Open Space – Tony Lapolla – No report
- B. Youth Commission – Daniel Gomes
 - 1. Job Fair:
 - a. Currently, 32 businesses have registered to participate, with an estimated 25–27 expected to attend due to last week's blizzard.
 - b. Participating organizations include local businesses, the YMCA, and military representatives.
 - c. The event will take place at Hyannis Youth and Community Center and is organized by age group: opportunities for 14-year-olds at the front, 15 – 16-year-olds in the middle, and military opportunities for those 18 and older at the back.
 - d. Students will check in by scanning a QR code or signing in at the front desk for attendance tracking before exploring the job fair.

VI. MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR

- A. Hyannis Youth and Community Center use – Rene King
 - 1. Appreciation was expressed to Mark Boardley for allowing the Barnstable High School basketball team to use the facility for an important state tournament game, noting that the team won and may not have had the opportunity without access to the facility for both practice and the game.
 - 2. Praised the idea of offering a financial literacy class and suggested a potential partnership with Cape Cod 5, which runs the "Credit for Life" program at the High School.
- B. Country Line Dancing Class – Rene King and John Gleason
 - 1. Feedback has been very positive, with participants enjoying the class, making it very successful.
 - 2. The first class attracted 29 participants, prompting the addition of a second class that currently has about 20 participants.
 - 3. The instructor, who runs the business Salty Boots, has a strong following, which brought in a mix of experienced dancers and newcomers.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

VIII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA ITEMS – To Be Determined

Meeting adjourned at 6:32p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING April 6, 2026 - Commission Elections

NEXT MEETING May 4, 2026