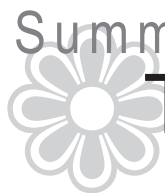


Summer 2008



The Sippewissett Association Newsletter



GREETINGS FROM President Katie Abrams

THINGS have been going well for the Association. In the last Newsletter, I asked if people would like to receive the newsletter and other communications by e-mail. There was a small response, and I thank those who did respond. Most respondents would prefer to receive the newsletter in print, the way it is done now. So we will continue to communicate as we do now and are prepared to use e-mail if we need fast communication. I have included the latest information on the Palmer Avenue Bridge. Also, please don't forget to:

SAVE THE DATE for the Sippewissett Association Summer Social on Sunday, August 3, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the home of Geraldine and John Klein-Robenhaar on 217

Sippewissett Road. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share. Beverages will be provided. See you there!

BRIDGES AND BIKEPATHS: CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

by
margaret gould collins

CONSTRUCTION of the bike path extension is moving forward, but a proposal to replace the the Palmer Avenue bridge between Sippewissett Road and West Falmouth has been cancelled for the foreseeable future. The bike path construction will offer Sippewissett residents a welcome avenue to travel safely by bike through West Falmouth and as far north as County Road. The cancellation of the bridge reconstruction will spare our neighborhood, as well as all southbound traffic through Falmouth along Palmer Avenue, a traffic headache.

BEGINNING in the spring, the brush was cleared from the railroad tracks north of the end of the bike path at Carlson Lane, and the rails and ties have been removed as far north as County Lane. The Falmouth Enterprise reported that construction will begin in early July, and will be completed sometime in 2009. Construction is being done by local contractor Lawrence Lynch.

REPORTS that construction was scheduled to begin last

spring on replacement of the northerly Palmer Avenue bridge over the railroad tracks were met with concern by Sippewissett residents, as it meant that all traffic toward the north – whether to West Falmouth or to Boston – from Sippewissett Road would have to turn left at the intersection of Palmer Ave. with Route 28. Moreover, traffic along 28 would be even heavier, since residents of North and West Falmouth travelling to Falmouth center and Woods Hole would be forced to take 28.

RICH MINER, who lives in Sippewissett Place, drafted and circulated a petition to state legislators, requesting that a temporary traffic light be installed at the Palmer Ave-Route 28 intersection for the duration of the construction. The response by Therese Murphy and Eric Turkington was positive, and state officials (who are responsible for the roadway) incorporated the installation of a temporary light into plans for the bridge. However, the state also reconsidered the entire project, and determined that the bridge is sound. Construction, mercifully, has been cancelled.



Tony Williams (r), director of the COALITION FOR BUZZARDS BAY BAYWATCHERS PROGRAM, giving a start-of-season volunteer training session in Baywatcher sampling techniques to Sippewissett Association



Volunteers Ellie Shaver, Vivigean Merz and Sylvia Vatak (l to r) and Coalition Board President John Ross of West Falmouth.

"How much lawn do you really need?"

— by Hila Lyman

Do you have corners in your lawn that aren't used or sections where the grass doesn't grow well? These are perfect areas to change from the monoculture of grass to a bio-diverse planting that creates a natural habitat and encourages birds and butterflies.

Since grass requires extra water and, often, extra fertilizer, converting to a naturalized planting will save water and reduce the amount of fertilizer that often leaches through our sandy soils and into our salt water bays and ponds.

You can create this naturalized planting with either native or low maintenance trees, shrubs, or foliage or flowering perennials. Although you do have to water these plants the first two years, once they are established they should be fine on their own. Because they are native or low maintenance, they do not require any additional fertilizer.

The one type of plant material that you need to be sure you DON'T plant is anything listed on the MA Prohibited Plant List. These are recognized invasive plants and it is against the law to buy, sell or transport them in MA. Some of the

most common ones are Norway Maple, goutweed, porcelain berry, Japanese barberry, common barberry, bittersweet, autumn olive, burning bush, Japanese honeysuckle, and purple loosestrife. The complete list can be found at: www.Mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/Prohibited_Plant_Index2.htm.

Once you've decided to convert a portion of your lawn to a naturalized planting, mark off the edges with a rope or hose to outline the new area. Evaluate the area for sun versus shade, wet vs dry, amount of wind, and type of soil-sandy vs clay. Have a soil test done to check on the pH of the soil. This will help you find the right plant for the right place.

Now comes the fun part. Research books, internet and local nurseries to find plants that meet your requirements for native or low maintenance plants that fit your growing conditions. Once you have decided on what to plant, purchase them, bring them home, place them (be sure to leave enough room for when they are fully grown), plant them, water them well, mulch the bed, and step back and enjoy!

HILA LYMAN is a Director of FACES (Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Saltponds), one of the organizations that your dues supports. The mission of FACES is: to educate and inspire property owners to help preserve the environment and natural resources of the estuaries and salt ponds of Falmouth; to combat and prevent pollution of these estuaries through proactive consultation with Town planners, environmental scientists, engineers and studies of existing conditions; to publicize problem areas.... and to alert local, county and state officials to the urgent need for corrective measures and the critical importance of mobilizing community support for such measures. More information on joining FACES and FACES activities can be found on their website www.preservefalmouthbays-ponds.org

Updates

Woodneck Coastal Complex

— by Betsy Gladfelder

Woodneck public beach and the contiguous Little Sippewissett Marsh are the focus of recent public concern following storm damage to the recreational beach, and swimming closures stemming from bacterial contamination. In response, as reported in the last Sippewissett Association Newsletter, the Falmouth Conservation Commission (ConCom) is coordinating a program of scientific studies so that the Town can develop the best management strategies to maintain an attractive, healthy public beach and maintain an intact coastal ecosystem. The central piece, a study of flushing and sand movements, is being conducted by Applied Coastal, Inc., with funding from the Community Preservation Act. This work is nearly finished and will be completed in the upcoming month or two. One early result suggests the

beach has been comparatively stable in the past decade compared with earlier more rapid changes.

To supplement this work, volunteers carried out a three-day study of nutrient flow last summer, with a one-day follow-up last winter (when biological activity was low). These results suggest the principal source of nitrate nutrients is groundwater discharge, but most phosphorus is imported from Buzzards Bay. A concurrent Marine Biological Laboratory study of coliform bacteria at Woodneck Beach, also now completed, indicates no evidence that occasionally high bacterial counts are from human sources. Rather, alternative sources, such as soils or wildlife, are probably responsible. Results from these and other studies at Woodneck will be brought together in a report expected during the summer of 2008.

SippOwisset Development Proposal of Joseph F. Sweeney

— by Authur Gains

A 2005 proposal to build a 5-bedroom house on the Pond Reservation parcel has been opposed by the Committee of SippOwisset Homeowners, who own lots in the 1897 planned subdivision of SippOwisset, spanning Gunning Point and Hamblin Point in Sippewissett. Citing numerous infractions of state and local wetlands regulations, the Falmouth ConCom issued a Denial Order of Conditions in 2006, barring the proposed construction. Subsequently, in a separate case (*Oyster Creek vs. Town of Harwich*) the State Supreme Judicial Court ruled that ConCom decisions issued after the required 21-days following closure of public comments (as indicated by postmark) were invalid and such cases would be remanded to the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Citing this precedent, Mr. Sweeney's lawyers chal-

lenged the Falmouth ConCom decision, which was mailed 22 days after public hearings had been closed. In May 2008 the Barnstable County Superior Court ruled that the *Oyster Creek* precedent applied to the Sweeney Denial Order, annulling that decision, and remanding the decision to the DEP.

SippOwisset Homeowners appealed an earlier Superseding Order of Conditions issued by DEP, which appeal was stayed by a DEP presiding officer. Following the Superior Court decision it is expected the stayed appeal will become active soon. The SippOwisset Homeowners drive to protect the Pond Reservation, access to the waterfront, and the overarching plan of the 1897 SippOwisset subdivision, is supported by 94 local homeowners. This fight is likely to continue into the future.

Membership Update by Barbara Eck

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

The membership year for Sippewissett Association runs from July 1 - June 30th each year. You will be receiving your 2008 membership renewal notice shortly, or may already have it.

Renewals are due regardless of when you sent your 2007 dues in. Dues remain a very reasonable \$25/ year. Please take the time to complete the membership form, updating any changes in your data — e-mail address, address, dates you are on Cape Cod, etc. so we may have this for our data base. Also, since we only have space for one name on our address labels, if you aren't getting our mailings sent to the desired person in your household, this is the time to make that change. Please also note that your contribution is not tax deductible. The Board explored the pros and cons of getting a 501c3 status and decided not to pursue it at this time.

NEW MEMBER SOLICITATION:

Each summer we try to identify the new residents who have come to Sippewissett in the past year and send them a welcome packet that includes a summer newsletter, membership form and an invitation to our Summer Social. If you know of any new residents in your neighborhood, or neighbors who might be interested in joining, please pass those names and addresses along to Membership Chairman Barbara Eck (548-6690) any time of year and they will receive this mailing. We have natural attrition in our membership each year with relocation, so we need to work at bringing new residents into our ranks. This also provides new energy and input to the Association.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee has produced the following slate of Officers and Board members at the June 28th Annual Meeting:

OFFICERS - (1 YEAR TERM)

President - Katherine Abrams

V-Pres. - Barbara Eck

Treasurer - Michael Eder

Secretary - Susan Cohen

BOARD MEMBERS: (3 YEAR TERM)

Debbie Gove

Carolyn Powers

Peter Waasdorp

CONTINUING ON THE BOARD ARE:

Katherine Abrams

Bernard Burke

Susan Cohan

Margaret Gould Collins

Maureen Conte

Barbara Eck

Michael Eder

Arthur Gaines

Kathleen Taylor

Report submitted by Barbara Eck

**The Sippewissett Association
PO Box 501
Falmouth, MA 02541**

**SUMMER SOCIAL ON Sunday, August 3rd
See details inside.**

THE SUMMER SOCIAL

Sunday, August 3 at the home of

Geraldine and John Klein-Robenhaar

from 3 to 5p.m.

217 Sippewissett Road

Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres to share

Beverages will be provided

