

Sippewissett Association
Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2007 (Approved 11/15/07)

Present: Katie Abrams, Susan Cohan, Barbara Eck, Michael Eder, Arthur Gaines, Sam Trotz, Peter Waasdorp

Absent: Margaret Goud Collins, Maureen Conte, Bernard Burke, Carolyn Powers, Kathleen Taylor

The meeting was held at the home of Katie Abrams and began at 7:07 PM.

AGENDA

Review of SA Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2007

Peter moved to accept the minutes as presented, Barbara seconded. VOTED.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Eder

Mike provided an email report via email for the period 5/22/07 - 9/10/07 which consisted of a list of transactions on the checking and savings accounts. As of this date the checking account balance is \$419.11, the savings account balance is \$9,796.25.

Administrative Issues – Katie Abrams

Mailing to SA members

Katie apologized for not using the email blind copy since this raised the concern of a couple of SA members. This should not be an issue in the future; see 'Mailings to SA Board' below.

Mailings to SA Board

We'll all plan to use the group email account. **Mike** will retire the 'sippass' board members group, create a group with a new name and send instructions for use to the board members.

Fed/state tax filing

According to Mike we do not have to file taxes since our interest received is too low.

However, since our EIN number has been reactivated **Mike** will file the necessary form in order to keep the EIN number active.

Winter Newsletter date

Peter will coordinate getting the material together. Newsletter will be targeted for December/January.

Water testing payments

The payment to the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for water testing had been voted a couple of years ago, to be paid in perpetuity.

Mike moved that the treasurer should notify the board whenever any bill over \$200, regardless of source, is due. Seconded and VOTED.

Annual Report due to Commonwealth Nov. 1

Sue has the previous reports. She will work with **Mike** on this.

Old Business

SA website - Michael Eder

Website needs updating. We may lose the sippewissett.org domain name; Mike will know in a couple of days.

Michael will send the current site files to **Sue**. **Michael** will contract with a new web hosting service (possibly 1&1) and try to register the sippewissett.org domain. Cost is about \$50 a year; the board wished to proceed. We have 90 days to try 1&1 to see if we like it.

Membership Report – Barbara Eck

Only 33 members expressed willingness to be contacted by email on the membership form.

We should send a message to all whose email address we have saying effectively 1. Will you accept all SA messages by email? 2. If not, will you accept SA urgent information by email? **Katie** will draft this.

Mike will build 2 new email groups based on above responses. **Barbara** will construct lists for sending mail to those not accepting emails.

Current membership: 146 total, 5 complimentary->141 dues paying. 21 did not renew for the current year; Barbara will send them a reminder. We do need to continue recruiting. Kathy Taylor sent a letter to 20 new owners in the area. We got no response from that mailing.

SippOwissett Status – Arthur Gaines

Arthur gave an update of current activity on the lawsuit. He mentioned that Sippewissett Association had contributed \$1000, earmarked for the purpose of information gathering.

Thanks to Kathy Taylor who found a postcard on eBay that pictures the Gunning Point beach with a cancelled stamp dated 1905, evidence of the long-term use of the beach by other than a single property owner.

DEP Wetlands actions – Arthur Gaines, Sam Trotz

Peter first heard about the proposed DEP change to remove the right of appeal for any 10 citizens from Ken Pruitt, chairman of the State Conservation Commissions organization. A meeting was held about this following the Summer Social, a letter was promptly drafted and sent. The Globe recently reported a reverse of direction by the Patrick administration. The Enterprise published a letter to the editor from Katie and an article based on input from Sam and Katie. 'Job well done' to all involved.

Woodneck Beach Update – Peter Waasdorp

Con Com has hired a consultant. A separate sampling study was completed during August. Results have yet to be tabulated. **Sam** will provide nitrogen and phosphorus data from Coalition for Buzzards Bay testing. The summary report should be available soon.

Noise Control

Falmouth is allowing motorcycles to generate 99 decibels whereas the state standard is 80 decibels. **Peter** will be reporting back on progress getting Falmouth to change.

New Business

Habitat for Humanity: Shall we become involved and how? Sam Trotz

The Sippewissett house will be built in 2008. Sam has a list of volunteer jobs with number of days required.

Peter moved to send a letter to Ken Foreman commending him for donating a lot, especially one where it should not be necessary to cut down many trees. **Katie** will send this letter. A letter to the editor and a note for the next newsletter should also be submitted, subject to Ken's approval. VOTED.

The board agreed that due to the religious nature of Habitat for Humanity we would limit our involvement to informing our members of Habitat's plans in Sippewissett and suggesting they contact Habitat for Humanity directly should they be interested in volunteering.

Phragmites Problem: What do we want to do in addressing this issue? Sam Trotz

Dick Payne pioneered approach to treat phragmites. He is currently looking at Gunning Point pond with Sam. This pond has 8-10 times more phragmites than the other currently-active project which is costing \$4000 to be done professionally. There's some interest in pursuing this project with volunteer help. However, ownership of the Gunning Point pond and shoreline is a big issue.

Sam will approach Con Com for permission to remove phragmites from Gunning Point Pond, **Katie** will assist. **Peter** will call Dick Payne to see if Salt Pond and Little Sippewissett are also on his radar.

Proposal for forming an ad hoc by-laws committee to update our bylaws and have revisions ready for 2008 Annual meeting (suggested by Conte, Taylor and Eder).

This would also include 501(C)(3) change.

Katie mentioned the board voted not to change to 501(C)(3) at last meeting. If the committee of **Maureen** Conte, **Kathy** Taylor and **Mike** Eder want to update bylaws for reasons other than the 501(C)(3) change then they should proceed.

Liability insurance for Board members – Mike Eder

Mike mentioned that personal umbrellas may not cover you. Check your umbrella; you may be able to get an exclusion for SA.

OPEN DISCUSSION

FACES would like a donation to help with signs concerning nitrogen loading on South facing beaches. Decision postponed. **Peter** will provide additional information.

Katie adjourned meeting at 9:11 PM. Next meeting is November 13 at Barbara Eck's.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association