

Minutes of Sippewissett Association Board Meeting
March 16, 2008 (Approved 05-15-2008)

Attending: Board Members: K. Abrams, M. Eder, A. Gaines, M. Goud, C. Powers, P. Waasdorp
Absent: B. Burke, M. Conte, B. Eck, K. Taylor, S. Cohan

Guest: Nancy McDonald; Sippewissett Place Community Association

The meeting was called to order by President Abrams at 19:13 at the home of Peter Waasdorp, 57 Beccles Road. The agenda is attached.

Approval of Minutes. MOTION (C. powers): Approve minutes of January 15, 2008 Board meeting. Second (P. Waasdorp). VOTE: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report. Before the meeting M. Eder distributed electronic files reporting an account balance of: Savings Account \$7,683.71; Checking Account \$227.51. Hard copy reports are attached.

Membership Report. No membership report (B. Eck absent)

Old Business

Winter social The winter social was held at West Falmouth Library from 3-5 PM on Sunday, march 16, 2008. 38 people attended. Jennifer Gaines presented an illustrated talk on "A Brief History of Buzzards Bay Communities: Quissett Harbor to West Falmouth". It seemed unanimous that the talk was much appreciated and that such talks should be included in future winter socials.

Betsy Gladfelter, speaking for the Falmouth Conservation Commission, spoke about Town Article 50 which proposes to require a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting to approve any new regulations promulgated by the Falmouth Conservation Commission. The ConCom is strongly opposed to the Article, the only one of its kind in Massachusetts, and Town Counsel has come out against the Article.

Nancy McDonald, of the Sippewissett Place Homeowners Association discussed efforts to control *Phragmites*, including a new method proposed by a private firm specializing in invasive species control.

The social is estimated to have cost about \$500 (hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks, site rental, paper supplies).

Newsletter The Winter Newsletter went out on schedule and was favorable complimented by present members. Tinker Waasdorp is to be thanked and congratulated.

New Web launch The new website is regarded as a success and statistics of hits indicate people are calling it up. After lengthy delay over the years, Susan Cohen has now achieved what we

have hoped for for a long time. The Board is extremely grateful to her for a good job completed quickly and attractively.

Phragmites The issue of eradication of the invasive grass *Phragmites*, which is spreading around the intertidal and supra-tidal areas of Falmouth, has been actively discussed for the past few years. Nancy McDonald of the Sippewissett Place Community Association spoke to our assembled Board about her recent efforts to promote increased neighborhood interest and commitment in eradicating *Phragmites* from the Woodneck marsh area, beginning around the margins of the Sippewissett Place subdivision. She discussed the difficulty of attracting support for this effort and pointed to the great expense sometimes associated with eradication programs (one homeowner spent \$30,000 to clear ¼ acre of *Phragmites*). She mentioned a private firm that specializes in invasive species eradication, who will send a representative to an upcoming ConCom meeting to describe a new method, hopefully less expensive. The new method would have to receive official sanction in order to be used in Falmouth.

SippOwisset Update Arthur Gaines gave a brief summary of the latest development in the SippOwisset Homeowners effort to date opposing Mr. Joseph Sweeney's plan to build a 5-bedroom house on the Pond Reservation, an open space amenity of the SippOwisset subdivision, as well as opposing Mr. Sweeney's actions to deny SippOwisset lotowners access to waterfront lands along Buzzard's Bay. The most recent development is that the Superior Court suit of Mr. Sweeney challenging the Falmouth ConCom Denial Order of Conditions on his project on a procedural point (the ConCom decision was posted one day late, if a recent Supreme Court decision applies to Falmouth). The hearing scheduled for late January, 2008 has been rescheduled for May 13, 2008. Given that the outcome is uncertain at this point, the SippOwisset Homeowners are pursuing other avenues to back up their position.

New Business

Traffic light Petition As the railroad bridge on Palmer Avenue near Fieldcrest Farm is scheduled for major work in the near future, neighbors are circulating a petition to support the idea of installing a temporary traffic light at the juncture of palmer Avenue and Route 28. Given the certain increased traffic using that juncture during construction, and its well known difficulty in terms of both left and right turns in often heavy traffic, it would seem a traffic light would be important for pubic safety. Richard Miner is nominally in charge of this petition, which has received 68 signatures, although it is not clear at this point how exactly to promote this cause. It is believed the state would have to be involved, since Route 28 is a state road, but the exact Town role or the applicable office therein needs to be clarified.

Article 50 Article 50, championed by a disgruntled former ConCom member as well as several developers or their interests, is considered by the ConCom as a serious threat to their ability to function. It is seen as an irregular approach to controlling the ConCom and the 2/3 Town Meeting vote it calls for to approve new regulations is regarded as outrageous. Although there are numerous legal points to suggest the Article should not pass, Board Member Peter Waasdorp holds that the Article must be seen as a serious threat to wetlands protection.

Baywatchers The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has sent a letter to President Abrams, asking what the Sippewissett Association annual contribution was for. Their confusion is curious since we have made an annual contribution for many years. President Abrams suggests we write a letter explaining the check is our annual contribution.

Nominating Committee The nominating committee will be chaired by B. Eck and will include K. Abrams. Barbara may seek additional members. Possible replacements of Board member Bernard Burke, who is retiring, was discussed. The value of retaining retiring board members as honorary board members was discussed and regarded as desirable. Possible new names discussed for our Board include Debbie (Hutchinson) Gove, Carolyn Bird, and Vincent Ng.

Annual Meeting The Sippewissett Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at the Cape Codder recreation center (10-12 AM; coffee at 09:30). Korrin Peterson, an attorney from the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, will speak about their organization.

Other Topics

Quiet Roads Association – Peter Waasdorp indicated that the new Police Chief will enforce Chapter 16 of the State law regarding noise. The Chief will make public his intention to check motorcycle exhaust systems for the 80 Db manufacturer’s stamp to assure the original equipment has not been removed. This approach has worked well in other communities.

Habitats for Humanity – It is reported that the new Habitat for Humanity house on Sippewissett Road near Woodneck Road is under construction now, with visible progress in raising walls.

Coastal Land Intrusions – Michael Eder discussed his efforts to ensure that back lot lines are respected by waterfront landowners. He reports that over the years several landowners at Gunning Point have acted to block passage along the coast, along sections where the private landowners do not own to the low water mark (i.e., where back lot lines exist). He has been conducting deed research to clarify these infractions and reports progress in locating specific deeds that can be cited in re-opening coastal passage.

Next Board Meeting: May 15, 2008 (Thursday), Carolyn Powers’ house.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:01

Arthur Gaines

March 19, 2008

Attachments: Agenda , Treasurer’s Report