

# Sippewissett Association

## *Mission (summarized):*

- *Protect and foster the interests of landowners of the Sippewissett region of the Town of Falmouth, Massachusetts;*
- *Promote and encourage cooperation among such landowners in order to ensure that the future development of the Sippewissett region shall be in keeping with its residential zoning restrictions;*
- *Protect and prevent the misuse of public and common areas in the Sippewissett region.*

## **Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2010 (approved via email post 5/20 mtg)**

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Mary Fran Buckley, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines, Deborah Gove, Carolyn Powers, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Susan Cohan, Margaret Collins, Nancy McDonald

## **Agenda**

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM. Carolyn volunteered to take minutes.

Carolyn moved to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting, draft 1. Arthur Gaines seconded. VOTED.

### Treasurer's Report

Karl reported that the balance in the checking account was \$617.68 and the balance in the savings account was \$8,865.27. He then circulated the proposed budget for FY2010.

Income is comprised of dues paid by 130 members, or \$3,250. Added to this is water testing income of \$395 making a total income of \$3,645.

Expenses for newsletters, various mailings and socials amount to \$1080. Fee for the water testing program is \$773; donations to various charities totaled \$1,400 (Buzzards Bay – 350, 300 Committee – 350, APCC – 250, FACES – 200, Salt Pond Sanctuaries- 250). These expenses plus the promised contribution of \$5000 to SippOwissett Association total \$8,253, would result in a current-year operating deficit of \$4,608. [Per Arthur's comments, please put the budget on the next Board meeting agenda.] Karl suggested raising the membership fee before cutting donations and urged the Board to recruit more members to raise the income figure. He also asked for clarification about the SippOwissett contribution.

Arthur reminded the group that the Board vote to give \$5000 to the SippOwissett Association was for acquisition of waterfront properties. The land to be acquired may not be available to purchase or may be donated. SA can keep the \$5000 on hold until land transfer plans are clear which should be within 6 months.

Maureen discussed the Cape Codder Settlement Escrow Account. As part of the settlement the developer deposited \$5000 in this account, held by Mark Roberts. The purpose of the account

was to support the monitoring of the bio clear system and water quality at Gunning Point Beach. No withdrawals have been made and the money, deposited in 2001, has earned some interest. Mark Roberts is closing his law practice and suggests the money be held by the Sippewissett Association. It was decided to authorize Karl to talk with Mark to work out the details.

In light of this new money source and the likelihood that the \$5000 contribution to SippOwisset Association will not be needed, Karl moved to accept the proposed budget. Arthur seconded. VOTED.

Peter thanked Karl and Sue for pulling the budget together.

Peter thanked Sue for the good work on the web site.

#### Membership Report

The total number of current members is uncertain. Peter, Bob Busby, and Karl will update the list and report at the next meeting.

The Board was urged to target new neighbors and make them aware of SA.

#### Old Business

Newsletter is out and received rave reviews. Peter inserted membership notices to those whose memberships were two years in arrears.

No news on liability and D&O insurance.

Peter sent the Gunning Point DEP letter and will email the final draft to Board. Discussion followed about Michael Eder's actions regarding access to and within the coastal band at SippOwisset, which was set aside for community use in the original 1897 subdivision plan. Some residents claim they own to the low tide line when in fact they own only to the back lot line. Arthur stated that he is in favor of enforcing the back lot line, but is not in favor of going after offending neighbors legally and making the issue a community internecine battle. The Board wishes Conservation Commission would address property infringements by educating folks about waterfront procedures and ownership boundaries. In truth the real culprits are the engineers and contractors who know better but go along with their clients' wishes or even mislead their clients..

Winter Social to be held March 14 at West Falmouth Library. Hila Lyman will be speaker. Set-up will begin at 2:30 PM. SA will have a table with membership forms, newsletter, wetland regs, info about Coalition for Buzzards Bay. Assignments are as follows:

- Peter – party supplies and wine; press release
- Carolyn – cheese, crackers and fruit
- Maureen – veggies and dip, flowers
- Karl – cookies

Discussion followed about insurance relative to serving wine. It will be taken care of!

## New Business

To fill the current vacancy on the Board, we continue to look for one more director before the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting locale is confirmed for the Cape Codder and the date is June 26, 2010.

Update on 249 Sippewissett enforcement hearing. The background is that in 2005 the owner instructed the contractor to clear cut to restore the view to the Pond. In 2005 the ConCom agent notified the owner that this act was in violation of town regulations and offered to help mitigate the violation. Then in 2010 the owner once again caused clearing of the view when the property was up for sale. Indeed the Pond reservation is meant to be a community asset and has 14 lots abutting it. Many owners have violated some aspect of the wetland laws to maintain a water view. Going forward, ConCom is intent on eliminating unpermitted cutting and voted an enforcement order at its 2/17/2010 meeting. This order requires the owner to provide, within 30 days, an engineering plan for plantings along the edge of the buffer zone and an irrigation system to sustain them. The Board expressed concern about the landscapers who know the regs and the owners who will not identify non-compliant landscapers. One thought was to make the owners subject to the landscaper's fine if they don't identify the landscaper. It was noted that concrete bounds identifying the buffer zones are now part of ConCom's permitting process. Should SA offer to pay for surveying and installation of concrete bounds for owners who request this service? The Board recommends an article addressing these issues for the next SA newsletter and an op ed article in the Enterprise from Peter, as president of SA.

Noise Sign donation – Two of the 12 signs ordered by DPW are up and others are being installed in various locations around town. These signs were purchased by VP of Quiet Roads Association as Town has no money to pay for them. Peter asked if SA was willing to donate one-third of the cost (\$380). Arthur moved that SA donate the \$380 share. Karl seconded. VOTED.

There being no further business, Karl moved the meeting adjourn at 8:56 PM. Debbie seconded. VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Powers, Secretary Pro Tem