

## 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 16, 2012 – Draft2 with one correction. APPROVED.**

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Mary Fran Buckley, Susan Cohan, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines, Debbie Gove, Merle Mizell, Nancy McDonald, Bob Skilton, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Margaret Goud Collins.

The meeting was held at the home of Maureen Conte and was called to order by Pres. Peter Waasdorp at 7:08 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Secretary's Report – Sue Cohan**

The minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them without change. Seconded and VOTED.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde**

Karl reported a Money Market balance of \$10,545.40 and a checking balance of \$598.88.

As follow-up to a vote taken at the 2011 Annual Meeting to 'limit overall water testing expenditures drawn from donations and SA's general funds to a total of \$1000 without coming back to the membership', Sue asked how much we had received in water quality donations this year. Karl reported that \$462 had been received during fiscal 2011. The estimate from the Coalition for Buzzards Bay for 2011 water quality testing (typically billed and paid in 2012) was \$840. Therefore, assuming the billed amount for 2011 is in line with that estimate we will have met the requirement for 2011.

Sue mentioned that we will need an estimate from CBB for 2012 water quality testing before June.

#### **Membership Report – Karl**

We currently have 115 paid members.

Peter reported that the reminder mailing to members who have not renewed has been sent.

Sue reported that she, with Kathy Taylor's help, has the Racing Beach mailing labels and a draft letter ready. **Peter** will review the letter and approve use of his signature; Mary Fran has already done this. **Mary Fran** will print extra copies of the winter newsletter to include with the mailing.

#### **Website Report – Sue Cohan**

Sue reported that a review for currency has been completed and some changes have been incorporated on the Ongoing Activities page. A summary of Arthur's comments concerning the status of the study of the Wood Neck beach coastal complex can be found under 'New Business' below. **Arthur** will provide written content about this topic for the website.

Sue asked whether we might want consider receipt of the most current newsletter as a benefit of membership and therefore post newsletters one-in-arrears on the website. There was a consensus to do this (no vote taken).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Winter social – Peter**

The social will be held at the West Falmouth Library 3-5 pm on March 18. Rental cost is approximately \$100. There will be no announcement concerning the serving of alcohol. Peter will organize the social via email.

Suggestions for topics for speakers: Coyotes or Boat Building in Sippewissett. **Peter** will speak with Jennifer Gaines to identify possible speakers. The talk will start at 4:00 pm and run for 20-30 minutes.

### **Winter newsletter – Mary Fran**

Mary Fran circulated the draft of the winter newsletter. Once the speaker for the winter social is finalized she will include the notice and complete the mailing.

### **Plots dug in Little Sippewissett marsh - Debbie**

A number of plots were dug without proper authorization by a UMass-Dartmouth graduate student doing an experiment concerning sea level rise. Articles about this have recently appeared in the Enterprise. ConCom will inspect the 'emergency stabilization' of the damaged sites and will be involved in approving mitigation action.

### **Plovers – Nancy**

Nancy has contacted the Audubon society and is waiting to hear back about availability of plover signs for posting at Wood Neck beach; she will call again. It was suggested that if Audubon is unresponsive SA may pursue this independently. Also, it was suggested that U.S. Fish and Wildlife might be a source for plover signs. A further comment was made that 'no dog' signs are also needed for Wood Neck and that they should include an explanation of the negative impact loose dogs can have on the plovers.

### **Cleaning of hidden and dirty road signs**

Someone cleared the signs at the curve near the Cape Codder . No other progress was reported.

### **Beccles Rd path**

There has been no recent progress reported concerning the reopening of the Beccles Rd. right of way since those currently involved - Bob Busby, Sylvia Vatuk, Kathy Taylor, and Mitch Sogin - are away. **Merle** would like to be included when activity resumes.

### **Coastal access on Gunning Point**

According to Arthur there are two main obstacles to open coastal access around Gunning Point. First, one lot owner claims that he owns to the water. His assertion is found only in the most recent deed for that lot; this needs to be cleared up. Second, an unauthorized informal groin was built some time. Michael Eder has pursued this and as a result of his efforts ConCom has issued an enforcement order that the groin be removed against the abutter to the property where it is located.

There is no update from Hartley concerning a survey of the Gunning Point shoreline.

### **Archives**

Ann Piccolo and Rosemary Hoskins, who have offered to organize archives, are back in town. If you haven't delivered your files to Rosemary please do so.

### **Annual meeting update – Peter**

The annual meeting will be June 23, 2012 at the Cape Codder. Peter arranged this through Kathy Taylor.

### **Phragmites update**

Sue saw Dick Payne who reported he is continuing to work with CBB on the project to treat Phragmites in the three Sippewissett ponds. Unfortunately the grant funding CBB thought would be available has been targeted for a totally different project so more funds will need to be raised locally to proceed. As Dick previously reported, he already has

funds lined up for Wood Neck pond. He is preparing a fund raising letter to abutters of the other ponds.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Wood Neck Beach area issues

- **Snow fence condition - Karl**  
The snow fence is down; it needs to be replaced to protect the dunes. Also, the remains of the fence are a hazard and need to be removed. **Karl** will give Peter photos of the metal bars sticking out of sand and **Peter** will present them to appropriate parties at Town Hall to try to get action.
- **Wood Neck Pond concern - Karl**  
Karl observed that the level of the pond seems to be rising and falling significantly and has been wondering what was going on. **Karl** offered to look into what would be needed to take measurements of depth and salinity several times a day over several days in order to quantify the level changes; this could help determine whether the source is fresh or salt water.
- **Update on the status of Wood Neck Beach report – Arthur (Includes Arthur’s corrections)**  
Ninety percent of the original funding for the study of the Wood Neck beach area was spent on the report produced by John Ramsey in 2008. (Note: This report is available from the Wood Neck section of the Ongoing Activities page of our website). Arthur and Betsy Gladfelter felt that certain additional data was needed to supplement the Ramsey report, and support appropriate conclusions about the management of Wood Neck. Therefore a three-day study was initiated by volunteers to measure nutrient and coli form bacteria at two stations in Little Sippewissett marsh at Wood Neck. In addition, gaps in information coming out of the Ramsey report have been identified—such as missing data on up-estuary transport of sand and losses of sand to the offshore. Sadly, the Town has not recorded volumes of sand deposited on Wood Neck beach over past years. A significant amount of this material is believed to move into the estuary. Beach nourishment is frequently done as a so-called ‘emergency action’ without obtaining prior state-mandated approvals from the ConCom under whose jurisdiction it falls.

It was suggested that SA send a letter to the attention of the Board of Selectmen concerning the lack of process in use by town departments relative to beach nourishment activities and the negative impact that has on 1. the resources, themselves and 2. the ability to make rational forward-looking resource management decisions based on what has been done previously. A copy of this letter might be sent to the Enterprise. Peter commented that raising this issue is timely since beach nourishment is an item in the budget. **Peter** will write the letter.

With regard to contamination sources at Wood Neck, Merle suggested that Mitch Sogin may be able to provide additional information; **Merle** will check with Mitch.

### **NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Peter’s house.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Susan Cohan, Secretary  
Sippewissett Association