

Sippewissett Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2010 – draft2 plus corrections(fiscal yr)
Approved 06-25-2011

The annual meeting was held at the Cape Codder Clubhouse. It was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Pres. Peter Waasdorp. There were approximately 40 people in attendance including Board members. Peter remembered past President Katie Abrams who died last fall, thanked members of the Board and Bob Busby for their contributions, and gave a special thanks to C.O.S.H. (Committee of SippOwissett Homeowners) for their years of effort on the Sweeney dispute.

Committee Reports

Review of SA 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan

Copies of the minutes were reviewed by attendees. A reference to 'fiscal 2009' in the Treasurer's report should be to 'fiscal 2008'. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the indicated change. Seconded and VOTED.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

For fiscal 2009 the starting balance was \$9511.35, the ending balance was \$9456.07.

Karl indicated there has been a trend over several years of expenses exceeding income by approximately 10% and recommended dues for membership year 2010-2011 be increased from \$25 to \$27.50. Following discussion a motion was made to approve dues of \$27.50 for membership year 2010-2011. Seconded and VOTED.

Maureen reviewed the missions of the organizations the Board has voted to support for fiscal **2010**: Coalition for Buzzards Bay (restoration and protection of the Bay) \$300; The 300 Committee (preservation and protection of natural lands in Falmouth) \$200; F.A.C.E.S. (Falmouth Association Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds - water quality issues, expertise relative to waste water treatment and pond cleanup) \$200; Salt Pond Bird Sanctuaries (conservation of Falmouth natural resources) \$200; Association to Preserve Cape Cod (protection of Cape Cod's natural resources and way of life) \$150. Also full funding of the Baywatchers water quality testing program (estimated \$773) was approved by the Board.

A motion was made for the membership to accept the Board-approved funding levels (\$1050 plus water quality testing). Following discussion this motion was changed to reset fiscal **2010** funding to **2009** levels (\$1400 plus water quality testing). An amendment was proposed that final **2010** funding levels be subject to review by the treasurer and re-approval by the Board. It was moved that this amendment be accepted. Seconded and VOTED. The fiscal **2010** funding level motion of \$1400 was then seconded and VOTED.

Membership Report – Maureen Conte

2008-2009 paid membership was 151. At the close of the 2009-2010 membership year there are 133 paid-up members plus 5 complimentary members. Maureen asked for volunteers to help with membership. Bob Busby, who will again handle membership for the upcoming year, indicated that approximate 20% of total Sippewissett residents are members of SA. We need to grow this percentage.

Election of Sippewissett Association Board and Officers

Peter reviewed the proposed slate with the attendees. Election of Susan Cohan and Margaret Goud Collins for another three year term was moved, seconded and VOTED. Re-election of the current slate of officers for another one year term was moved, seconded and VOTED. The Board is working on filling the seat left open by Katie Abrams.

Socials Report – Peter Waasdorp

Community socials were held in both summer 2009 and winter 2010. The winter social included an interesting talk by Hila Lyman on Ecological Landscaping. This summer's social will be held August 1st from 3-5pm at the Klein-Robbenhaars. The membership sends its best wishes to Jan. The Board is reviewing whether to omit the serving of alcohol next winter due to insurance considerations.

Website Update – Susan Cohan

Sue reminded attendees that we have a website at sippewissett.org where members can find information about upcoming events, 'hot news' since the last newsletter, an archive of newsletters, and a description of ongoing activities with links to the most recent newsletter update on each topic. She requested that comments or suggestions be sent to info@sippewissett.org.

New Resident Letter – Kathy Taylor

There are 14 new residents in Sippewissett this year. A welcome letter and membership packet will be sent shortly.

Quiet Roads Update – Peter Waasdorp

Noise on town roads continues to be a problem. The town passed an ordinance increasing first time fines. Police Chief Riello has been good to work with and is focusing on educating motorcycle riders about the ordinance. However, there is no money available for focused enforcement at this time. Due to the town's budget situation SA donated money to help pay for the anti-noise signs that have been posted around town. Peter pointed out that the noise ordinance applies to cars, car radios, etc.; it is not limited to motorcycles, but is restricted to road-based activity.

A discussion about other noise problems ensued. Concern was expressed about noise levels from landscapers, leaf blowers, generators. SA should investigate town ordinances that apply to these topics and include an informational article in the winter newsletter.

The ongoing concern about speeding on Sippewissett Rd. was discussed. Maureen suggested that if everyone observes the speed limit you'll effectively enforce it on drivers behind you. She also suggested bringing '25 mph' t-shirts to sell at the summer social. The need to keep roadside brush cut back so pedestrians can step off the road was mentioned.

Aquaculture Update – Eric Matzen and Steve Kirk

Eric and Steve hold rights to aquaculture installations off Woodneck and Flume Pond. Oysters are in the water for about a month now. They are located about 1000 feet offshore in approximately 20 ft. of water and are growing in mesh bags contained in cages. Buoys mark the corners of the installations. Eric and Steve expect an approximately 2-3 year cycle to harvest. There are 20 cages at each site right now. Feel free to contact them anytime with questions or concerns. (Peter Waasdorp has their contact information.)

Letter from Senior Center – Peter Waasdorp

The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help neighbors bring their trash to the curb each week. Contact the Senior Center directly.

SippOwisset Update - Arthur Gaines

Arthur recapped the dispute which has been ongoing for nearly 30 years between Joseph Sweeney and the owners of 193 lots of the SippOwisset subdivision. Several lots abutting the pond, while privately owned, were intended for community use per the original SippOwisset mapping. One of these 'common properties' was transferred to a developer who submitted his first plan in 1981. This and multiple subsequent proposals were turned down by ConCom. The most recent plan proposed in 2005 included a second lot which allowed access to the development site from the Sippewissett Rd. side.

Arthur briefly reviewed the steps taken since 2005 in the fight by C.O.S.H. (Committee of SippOwisset Homeowners) against the latest proposal. This year C.O.S.H.'s attorney recommended settling rather than pursuing the case in Land Court since a finding could go in either direction. A settlement has recently been negotiated.

The lot known as the Pond Reservation will be divided basically in half. Lot1 will be developed by Sweeney and his business partner John Corcoran into a five bedroom house. This lot combined with 229 Sippewissett Rd will now be known as lot 71A. A building permit has been issued. Lot 2 has been given to Salt Pond Association with the conservation restriction to be held by the 300 Committee. Deeded rights are granted to the community for the beach area, which is from the low tide line to the shore of the pond. As the beach moves over time, so do the rights.

Gained in the settlement: 1. Avoidance of an expensive land court fight with an uncertain outcome, 2. expanded legal beach rights for ALL lot owners, 3. Rights of way are now mapped, deeded and assured. Additionally, a new definition of flood velocity zones was accomplished during the course of dispute and an

improvement in the planned septic system was negotiated. Lost in the settlement: 1. there will be a new house (but an old house will be taken down so there will still be just one house).

C.O.S.H. is considering what follow-up to take to insure the agreement is being observed during construction. If Sweeney departs from the agreement he's in contempt of court.

Hartley Hoskins indicated he has a PDF of the house plan and an attendee suggested it be posted on the website.

New business

None

Guest Speaker - Betsy Gladfelter, Chair of Falmouth Conservation Commission, speaking on the town's wetlands regulations

Conservation Commission (ConCom) overview

ConCom has two primary functions: 1. as a regulatory board and 2. as the responsible party for town conservation lands. In 1972 the Federal Wetlands Protection Act/Clean Water Act was passed. Also in 1972 the State passed an act that included enforcement powers. In 1979 Falmouth passed a town-specific wetlands bylaw whose purpose was to protect 13 types of coastal resource areas (see the list in Falmouth Wetlands Regulations Part II: Coastal) as well as inland resource areas. Protection of wetlands as well as 100 ft. buffer zones for each of the resource areas is part of ConCom jurisdiction.

In Falmouth the 300 committee helps ConCom manage its conservation land.

Importance of vegetated buffer areas

The key reasons for conservation activities are water quality control and flood protection.

Buffer areas protect resource area value AND protect the property above the buffer from the ocean coming landward. 90% of the cases brought to ConCom deal with buffer regulations.

Each resource area has its own 100 ft. buffer. Wetlands regulation 10.18 was modified to clarify the work that could be done within a buffer. Each buffer is divided into an A-zone and a B-zone. A is a no-touch zone, but many people have pre-existing structures in the A-zone of a buffer. To expand those structures the rule is you can't get any closer to the resource and you shouldn't touch any natural vegetation. Each square foot of expansion must be mitigated with 3 sq. feet of approved buffer plantings. This effectively limits the size of expansion. When you propose expansion in the B-zone, you must put in 2 sq. ft. of approved mitigation planting for each square foot of expansion.

The objective of the plantings is to establish root systems which will keep sediment from going seaward.

Questions and Answers:

Q: How should a homeowner proceed if he wishes to convert lawn to vegetated buffer?

A: He should formulate a conversion proposal and then meet with ConCom's agent Mark Kasprzyk.

Q: What happens if someone cuts protected vegetation without approval?

A: ConCom only knows if someone reports the violation. The town's conservation agent must document the violation, then a letter is sent to the homeowner. The homeowner has 30 days to present a plan to answer the letter. If there is no response, the case may be sent to town counsel. Four or five egregious cases have recently been sent to town counsel.

Q: How is enforcement handled if a violation is committed not by homeowner, but by a neighbor on the homeowner's property?

A: ConCom will send a letter concerning the violation to the homeowner. The homeowner must seek remedy from his neighbor.

Q: What if a violation is not visible from the street?

A: ConCom can't go on private property but it can make use aerial photos taken every couple of years.

Q: Will ConCom ensure that the Sweeney project conforms to the approved plans?

A: ConCom commissioners will visit the site and make sure it conforms to the plans that were approved by state DEP.

Q: The town's ConCom agent has not returned my repeated calls.

A: If you have trouble contacting the ConCom agent take photographs of the violation you wish to report and bring those with you during the designated walk-in hours.

Q: What about water quality issues caused by storm water runoff?

A: Lawns are discouraged other than 'Falmouth Friendly Lawns'. The town has a storm water engineer on staff. A multi-disciplinary effort to introduce low impact storm water strategies in town is being pursued.

Q: Once an order of conditions is issued, within what timeframe must the work be completed?

A: An Order of conditions generally applies for 3 years. Extensions of 1 year at a time can be requested.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 P.M.

Submitted by:

Susan Cohan, Secretary

Sippewissett Association

Board and Officers for 2010-2011

Officers – (1 year term)

President – Peter Waasdorp, Vice President – Margaret Goud Collins,

Treasurer - Karl Audenaerde, Secretary – Susan Cohan

3 year term on the Board:

Susan Cohan (re-elected) 2010

Margaret Goud Collins (re-elected) 2010

Vacancy (new) 2010

Continuing on the Board: Year elected

Deborah Gove 2008

Carolyn Powers 2008

Peter Waasdorp 2008

Karl Audenaerde 2009

Mary Fran Buckley 2009

Maureen Conte 2009

Arthur Gaines 2009

Nancy McDonald 2009