

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 – May 9, 2013 – APPROVED 10/24/2013

Board Present: Susan Cohan, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines, Debbie Gove, Nancy McDonald, Peter Waasdorp, Bob Skilton

Board Absent: Karl Audenaerde, Mary Fran Buckley, Merle Mizell, 1 vacancy

The meeting was held at the home of Sue Cohan and was called to order by Pres. Peter Waasdorp at 7:10 p.m.

AGENDA

Secretary's Report – Sue Cohan

The minutes of the 02/14/2013 meeting as provided by Arthur with additions from Peter were reviewed. A motion was made by Bob to approve the minutes. Seconded and **APPROVED**. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

There was no official treasurer's report in Karl's absence.

Prior to the annual meeting **Karl and the rest of the Board** need to vote on recommended dues, donations and our level of commitment for water quality testing so the budget can be presented at the annual meeting and any necessary votes taken.

Membership Report – Karl

An email from Karl prior to the meeting stated that membership was the same as last meeting (136 paid members).

Website Report – Sue Cohan

Sue reported she has been concerned about two issues with the current website: 1. an ongoing problem adding new files (we archive our newsletters and minutes on the website), 2. A forward-looking issue of making sure our site works acceptably on tablets and smartphones.

Over the winter she looked into the new tool from 1&1 (our current hosting service) and also Wordpress, a well accepted and heavily used web application/blog open source platform. She implemented a prototype of our site using a common Wordpress template. Results satisfactorily addressed issue#1 and provided an improvement on issue#2.

Prior to this meeting she tried once again to add files to the current website and was very surprised to find that it worked. She was able to bring all site content up to date.

Given this turn of events, she recommends that:

- we continue with the current website for the time being
- she periodically review available Wordpress templates to find one that is suitable for our application and that will provide a good experience on varied user devices

With regard to content, it was agreed **Sue** should add two new sections on the Ongoing Activities page – Coastal Access Committee and Observation of Sippewissett's natural habitat.

OLD BUSINESS

Board appointment

Peter has tried to contact Judy Yost without luck. **Arthur** will send him some contact information and **Peter** will continue to try.

Winter newsletter review

The Board was pleased with the winter newsletter.

Winter social review

There were 25-30 people in attendance at the winter social at West Falmouth Library. Board members seemed satisfied with the non-alcohol event. However, they missed having a speaker. An upside of the changes this year (i.e. no alcohol, no associated insurance) was that this event was considerably more economical to hold than in the past.

Update on Gunning Point Matters

ConCom and Zoning Board of Appeals – 43 Gunning Point

Negotiations to settle this issue are moving forward and an agreement appears close. Michael Eder, who has taken the lead in pursuing this right coastal access violation, feels that SPABSI has now taken ownership of the issue and the negotiation.

The probable terms of the settlement would allow the wall to stand. However, monetary consideration for an easement will be provided to SPABSI which effectively acknowledges that SPABSI owns the property where the wall stands. Certain rocks will be moved to facilitate passage which effectively acknowledges that the wall has interfered with a community right of way.

Arthur and Peter think ConCom is likely agree to the settlement in which case the ZBA appeal will be withdrawn.

Survey for SPABSI

Hartley personally paid for a survey of the Gunning Point coastline to be used for reference in this and potentially other coastal access/right of way disputes. A suggestion had been made at a previous meeting to fund this survey. We'll discuss it before annual meeting at the time we review our intended donation to SPABSI.

Coastal Access Committee update

Arthur suggested that the 43 Gunning Point issue was under the Coastal Access Committee 'umbrella'; we provided support to Michael Eder as he pursued it.

Merle Mizell and **Tony Steinacker** would like to join this committee.

Maureen suggested that the committee identify people familiar with particular parts of the Sippewissett coastline and have them work on the associated section of the proposed Right of Way Guide. The committee would oversee, review and consolidate the results.

Michael Eder mentioned to Arthur that deeds have been changed by lawyers and property owners to improperly include or exclude beach access and ownership rights. There is no review for correctness when a deed is filed at the registry; you can basically say anything. Arthur suggests that to protect your rights the wording used at the time of creation of the lot be brought forward into the current deed to make sure that your rights are directly linked to your deed.

This is a concern and potential issue in several neighborhoods along the Sippewissett shoreline. We should consider a **newsletter** article describing how to clarify your deed be written so it would be applicable to all subdivisions in Sippewissett.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual meeting

The 2013 annual meeting will be held June 22, 2013.

Suggested speaker - Mark Rasmussen of BBC. **Maureen** will ask him.

Suggested topic - Open space around Buzzards Bay.

We will organize the logistics of the annual meeting by email.

Nominating

Sue and **Bob** said they would be willing to continue for another 3 yr. term.

Peter will continue trying to reach Judy Yost. He will speak to her about assuming the Secretary's position next year. If she can't attend most meetings, then Sue will keep the Secretary's job but we'll come up with a way to spread around the note-taking responsibility. (Sue will continue as webmaster).

Peter will ask Karl if he will keep the Treasurer's job for another year.

Summer newsletter – timing and articles

The summer newsletter should be targeted to come out enough in advance of the summer social to include the notice about the social.

Article ideas:

- Phragmites status (who will check with Dick Payne?)
- Deeds (Arthur)
- Sippewissett Reminiscence (Maureen, or possibly Carl and Jean Bowen)
 - Possible topic...History of Sippewissett Rd – effort by Haynes and Eldred to connect this area to the town road system in the late 1800's

Police speed sign (Sue)

Sue will look into this.

Summer social host and date

Proposed dates: August 4th or 18th. 18th preferred.

Proposed hosts: Foreman, Lowell, Klein-Robenhaar, or Cape Codder clubhouse

Peter will check.

Update: Haynes garbage wars (Arthur)

Trash from five houses on Haynes Ave 2 has been put on a town right of way at the corner of Haynes 2 and Sippewissett Rd. for over 20 years because the town trash contractor said it could not send trucks up Haynes 2. A property at the corner changed hands several years ago and the new owner has since made an issue of the placement of trash on/near her property. Town Counsel became involved and has now notified the five Haynes 2 property owners that the placement of their trash is in violation of state law. However, he checked with the current trash contractor who says he CAN send trucks onto Haynes 2 so at-the-door trash pickup has now begun for the Haynes Ave. 2 property owners.

Clean up week review (Nancy)

The annual trash cleanup along Sippewissett Rd. went well. Nancy found somewhat less trash this year on her route than previously.

Plover update (Nancy)

The same banded plover is back this year. The plovers are starting to nest. There are quite a few around - two pairs at Black beach, two pairs at Saconnesett. Fences and signs have been put up at Woodneck.

Question 1

FACES has asked if the SA Board would allow the organization name to appear in support of Question 1 (concerns water quality – combines drinking water treatment funding with funding to improve water quality in the ponds).

Maureen moved that since we support FACES initiatives, we should allow 'Sippewissett Association' to appear with FACE's support of question 1. Bob seconded. **APPROVED.** Unanimous.

Maureen will check if FACES representative will speak for 10 minutes at our annual meeting.

NEXT MEETING: September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Debbie's home.

We will schedule meetings for 2013-2014 on 2nd Thursdays of the months we typically meet. **Sue** will bring a list of proposed dates to the September meeting (10/03 first meeting. Proposed: 12/12, 02/13, 04/10, 06/12).

The meeting was adjourned by Pres. Peter Waasdorp at 8:52 p.m.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association