

## 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 – April 10, 2014 – APPROVED May 29, 2014**

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Susan Cohan, Michael Eder, Arthur Gaines, Debbie Gove, Nancy McDonald, Bob Skilton, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Maureen Conte, Merle Mizell, Judy Yost

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

### **AGENDA**

#### **Secretary's Report – Position vacant.**

The minutes of the 01/14/2014 meeting which were provided by Sue were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Seconded and **APPROVED**. Unanimous.

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

The checking balance is \$786.06, the Money Market balance is \$10,055.83.

#### **Plane ticket to Nantucket.**

Arthur will determine whether Hartley might enjoy receiving the plane ticket we received as a benefit of one of our donations as a token of appreciation from SA for his significant contributions to our community.

#### **Membership Report – Karl Audenaerde**

SA current membership is 131. According to Karl we got a smaller response than expected from the reminder mailing sent to non-renewing members; we are experiencing a slow downward trend in membership.

Based on the Excel file Karl distributed at the last meeting breaking down membership by street address (=neighborhood) we discussed identifying Sippewissett neighborhoods with membership percentage under, say, 50%, and targeting a mailing (including newsletters, a cover letter, and membership form) to non-members. Current members from each neighborhood would be asked to coordinate this approach to non-members. Addresses were provided by Bob Busby in Karl's Excel file. The need for a "Membership Chairman" at the Board level was discussed.

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

Sue has added a News item about the new FEMA maps and a link to the preliminary maps. She will add an announcement about the annual meeting and will look into placing a PayPal 'Join Now' button on the site.

Michael suggested that we provide a method for users to contact us directly through the site. Sue will look into including a contact form on the Contact page. (Note: we already publish email address [info@sippewissett.org](mailto:info@sippewissett.org) on the Contact page with which users can reach us.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Review: Winter social**

There were 30-35 attendees which is comparable to previous years.  
The Board felt the event was a success.  
Total cost was \$133 as compared to approximately \$500 when alcohol was served.

### **Review: Winter newsletter**

Everyone on the Board is most appreciative of Mary Fran's efforts in bringing the winter newsletter to completion.

### **Letter to Millicent Bell (Debbie)**

Debbie circulated an initial draft of a letter to Millicent Bell asking that she reconsider the family's recent objection to phragmites treatment of Wood Neck Pond. It was agreed that having the letter come from the neighbors would be better than having it come from SA. It was also suggested that including signatures of known committed environmentalists on that letter, or perhaps on a separate letter, might help alleviate the family's concern.

### **Review of last meeting (Arthur)**

Arthur wanted to discuss the goals of the CAC (Coastal Access Committee) at a higher level than at the last meeting. He particularly wanted to review whether, based on decisions made in June 2003, all tasks currently under consideration actually belong with CAC and for those tasks that do what the best approach might be.

In June 2003 it was decided that two focuses of the Sippewissett Association are to protect access by the community to the amenities of Beebe Woods and the coast. Arthur reminded the Board that the current policy was for the SA to provide support to address access issues but that the balance of effort and cost be carried by immediate neighborhoods and abutters. This was the case for two past access matters addressed by the SippOwisset subdivision.

Arthur pointed out that the Kelly property on Sippewissett Road (adjacent to 292 Sippewissett Road near Dearborn Avenue) is a potential Beebe Woods connector but does not fall under the purview of the CAC as it deals with wildlife matters, not with human access to the coast.

He said in a separate capacity he has been involved with the 300 Committee looking into acquisition of this land, and will be visiting the site on Sunday April 13 with their Land Acquisition Committee. If they decide to attempt to acquire the land the approach would be to make an offer on the ½ acre buildable site currently up for sale and then tie the purchase to application of a Conservation Restriction on a larger piece of neighboring wetland property (also owned by the Kellys). Bob Skilton pointed out that the 300 Committee has actually been working on this for over a year.

Arthur stated that he and Michael generally agree on technical points of the issues facing the CAC but not always on the approach for dealing with them. Michael leans toward confronting issues head-on and in anticipation of active issues. Arthur recommends producing a series of 'one-pagers' to solidify progress to date. Each would highlight a coastal access/property rights issue dealt with over the past 5-10 years and would include findings/outcome and explanations. Hartley's coastal survey and an explanation of its impact on town maps would be included and a document defining currently remaining issues should be drafted. There was some discussion about the nature of the one-pagers. Additionally, Maureen had previously suggested producing an educational book or pamphlet about the state of specific coastal access points along the Sippewissett shoreline. Arthur is concerned about who would do the substantial work involved in Michael's and Maureen's recommendations.

Michael believes there is need for a group of people who look out for new issues and who are ready to take action on short notice. Michael pointed to the 'Mission of the

Sippewissett Association' and said there is no disagreement that we should not get involved in issues just between neighbors (beyond maybe providing some advice) but that there must be criteria, when an issue involves a significant number of members of the association, for getting involved. When something comes up that is a misuse of public or common areas there is usually less than a week before it comes to a vote before a local town board and Michael sees an important role of the association in having the organization in place to get the message out and coordinate the response.

Arthur feels the impacted neighborhood needs to provide activism, that SA people should be advisors. Debbie suggests that both approaches are valuable. Also there needs to be a process for deciding in a timely fashion whether a particular issue should be dealt with by the neighborhood or is important for all of Sippewissett and should be taken up by SA.

Arthur suggested that to get things started a 'one-pager' as described above for should be written and reviewed at each meeting. Arthur has already assigned the 'one-pagers' but none has been delivered thus far. He will write and bring one-pagers about the Sweeney-Corcoran settlement and #10 Cape Codder to the next meeting. Other one-pagers would address such matters, as applicable, as the following:

- Easements
- Chapter 91 matters
- Gunning Point sea wall and associated ROW
  - Maureen suggests the ROW might now satisfy Chapter 91; requires additional review.
- Langley-Keyes
- Cape Codder
- Cape Codder: ConCom 1-8-14
- Billings: ConCom
  - They did not get a variance to build within the 100 foot buffer of coastal bank.
- Cape Codder Road encroachment and ROW
- Cape Codder Road – additions to new construction

This discussion is to be continued. Proposals should be brought to the next meeting concerning the mission of the CAC and how this mission fits into the mission of SA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nominations for officers and board members (Mizell, Gove, Waasdorp terms expire)**

Nominations will be finalized at the next meeting (pre-Annual Meeting).

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cape Codder. Judy Yost will host.

#### **Speaker:**

We should invite someone from Buzzards Bay Coalition to give a 5 minute report. Jessica Whritenour and Alex Etkind from the 300 committee were suggested as possible primary speakers.

### **Michael suggested making a 'thank you' donation to SPABSI (Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.)**

No decision was made. This should be reviewed before the Annual Meeting so we present correct information at that time.

### **Arthur suggested making a significant donation to the 300 Committee if they move on the Kelly property. (This is what was discussed above as the Beebe Woods connector).**

No decision was made. This should be reviewed before the Annual Meeting so we present correct information at that time.

**Michael requested that we all use the Yahoo email group (sippboard@yahoo.com)**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 22nd or 29th, 2014 at 7:00 pm at house to-be-determined.**

The meeting was adjourned by President Peter Waasdorp at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Susan Cohan  
Sippewissett Association