

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 14, 2015 – APPROVED 09-24-2015

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

Board Absent: Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar, Sylvia Vatuk, Judy Yost

The meeting was held at the home of Susan Cohan and was called to order by Pres. Peter Waasdorp at 7:07 p.m.

AGENDA

Secretary's Report – Position vacant.

The minutes of the 12/04/2014 meeting which were provided by Sue were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Seconded and APPROVED

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

The Checking balance is \$498.47, the Money Market balance is \$ 11,061.12.

Budget - Karl presented an Annual Budget for FY2015 which was close to balanced. It was noted that it did not include funding for the the upcoming Birds of Prey presentation (\$350?) . Karl reported that the water quality testing amount included testing for Flume Pond which should be resumed this year; however, it did not include an anticipated cost increase commented upon by Maureen. (Sue also noticed post-meeting that the web hosting amount was too low.) The sum of these additional items will themselves consume a significant amount of the Reserve amount initially specified. Also, the decision to allow diversion of a portion of our dues income for FY2015 to the 300 Committee (See Kelly Wildlife Corridor discussion below) will impact the budget.

Dues – Karl indicated he was comfortable keeping dues at \$30.

A motion was made to approve both the Budget and Dues of \$30. Seconded and APPROVED.

Membership Report – Debbie Gove

Debbie has created a map of parcels along Sippewissett Rd. and its offshoots between Quissett Ave. and Palmer Ave. It includes certain other roads located between Woods Hole Road and Sippewissett Rd. but is not an all-inclusive list of 'Sippewissett' roads.

She also has developed a spreadsheet of parcel numbers / owner names on these streets and has highlighted current SA members. Non-members will easily be identifiable for membership development purposes. She will send the map and spreadsheet to the Board.

Communications about membership should be sent to her, Karl, Peter and Bob Busby.

Webmaster's Report

Sue reported she provided a short article about Paypal support to Mary Fran for the last newsletter.

It was suggested that we introduce dynamic information of interest on the website, possibly through links to other sites such as tide charts, weather, etc. This might drive additional traffic to the website.

Sue will send out some website stats for those interested.

OLD BUSINESS

Hoskins Dinner

The dinner to honor Hartley and Rosemary Hoskins was a positive event with 22 people in attendance.

Airline tickets

Michael sold the Cape Air ticket from Hyannis to Nantucket for \$80.

Wood Neck Phragmites update – Debbie

There has been no news since the last meeting.

It was noted that one family has offered to pay unilaterally for phragmites removal in front of their house if they get permission from SPABSI.

Debbie suggested these possible steps for moving forward:

- Determine if all parties (residents/abutters and Buzzards Bay Coalition) are still interested in proceeding with the project.
- If so, contact the Bells with an implementation plan that excludes the phragmites in front of their lot.
- If the Bells indicate they will sue a determination will be made on whether/how to proceed.

Kelly Wildlife Corridor – Arthur

The 300 Committee has decided to acquire the Kelly property. This will connect Buzzards Bay to the Beebe Woods and beyond. This purchase will protect 525 feet of woodland along Sippewissett Rd.

The 300 Committee will purchase the .53 acre buildable lot for \$235K; Kelly will donate the abutting 2.65 acres to The 300 Committee, providing a footpath connection to Beebe Woods. The Buzzards Bay Coalition and SPABSI also plan to support this transaction which will provide firm protection of 3.18 acres and a broad wildlife corridor between Beebe Woods/Peterson Farm and the shore of Buzzards Bay.

Arthur indicated his belief that SA should provide a substantial donation, suggesting \$5,000. Karl expressed reservation about depleting the treasury to this degree.

There seemed to be agreement on the Board that this is a valuable project. There also was agreement that all Sippewissett residents should be educated about the value of this purchase and should be asked to support the 300 Committee's acquisition of this property.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed:

- In July we should send an educational letter/membership renewal packet to all Sippewissett addresses describing the planned acquisition and its value and asking for donations. This should include a return envelope to SA for checks and membership forms.
- Donations for the Kelly project would be made out to the 300 Committee so the donor can receive a tax-deduction. (SA wants to receive credit for collecting the funds.)

- Any donation of \$60 or more to the 300 Committee would also be considered to be in-lieu of 2015-2016 SA membership dues if the donor indicates he/she wants a membership by sending back the membership form. Donations less than \$60 to the 300 Committee would also be accepted.
- The packet also needs to allow simple dues payment (\$30) directly to SA and an optional amount for water quality testing, as before.
- The SA Board will review whether to make a contribution from our treasury to the Kelly project (300 Committee, BBC?, SPABSI?) based on the amount of 'in lieu' dues assignment that occurs.

Two motions were made, seconded and APPROVED with regard to the above.

- A check box to select \$60 or a check box to select 'Other' and a way to enter the 'other' amount should be supported
- A note to indicate that a donation of '\$60 or over includes a 2015-2016 SA membership'

(Note: we need to set this up so the donor has the option to refuse the 'in lieu' membership when giving more than \$60.)

Rothman Meeting

Peter met very recently with Lisa Rothman. The Rothmans are claiming they own to the midpoint of Langley Rd. per their lawyer under Chapter 183 Section 58; their building permit reflects this. They are unwilling to budge on the question of ownership. However, they are willing to consider easements (for example, for access for beach nourishment). They are also willing to take input about where to replant replacements for any dead trees.

The Coastal Access Committee has not met since this meeting to consider this new information.

It was noted that SPABSI is now the owner of Langley Rd.

Survey Costs

Estimates are under \$1K for the Rothman property, \$1250 for the Fine property.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations

Officers

- President** - Arthur will let Peter know in a couple of days if he will accept nomination as President.
- VP** – Maureen will accept nomination as VP conditional on Arthur's accepting nomination as President.
- Treasurer** – Karl
- Secretary** - Vacant

Board members with terms expiring in 2015

- Karl** – continuing
- Maureen** – continuing
- Arthur** - continuing
- Nancy** - retiring

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Cape Codder Clubhouse. The 'Birds of Prey' program will be presented .

It was suggested that a 'Save the date' for Annual Meeting postcard be sent to the membership and that pictures associated with the 'Birds of Prey' presentation be included. A news release inviting the public was also suggested.

Bob Skilton will ask Jessica Whritenour or Leonard Johnson to speak to the Annual meeting about the Kelly acquisition (around 10:15 am).

The acquisition should be discussed at start of the meeting so people who write checks at the meeting will know about it. The 2015-2016 Donation/Membership Form(s) should be available at the Annual Meeting

Peter will send an email to the Board about logistics.

Summer Social

Peter will determine whether Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar is able to host, preferably August 9th or alternately August 2nd. (Note: The Road Race date is August 16th.)

Summer Newsletter

Ideas for articles:

- Making private roads public - ?by whom?
This article would describe the town's process for accepting roads and the associated
- We need Baywatcher volunteers
- Information about the Kelly Wildlife Corridor

Annual Membership Mailing

The mailing should go out in July. In addition to the membership form it should include an educational piece about the Kelly parcel acquisition and an associated request for a donation to the 300 Committee (see discussion above about Kelly Wildlife Corridor).

New Resident Mailing – Kathy Taylor

Peter will check with Kathy.

Cleanup Week

The large number of empty alcoholic beverages containers found is a source of concern.

NEXT MEETING: September 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Karl's house.

The meeting was adjourned by President Peter Waasdorp at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan
Sippewissett Association