

**Sippewissett Association
Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2008 (Approved)**

Present: Katie Abrams, Susan Cohan, Margaret Goud Collins, Maureen Conte, Barbara Eck, Michael Eder, Arthur Gaines, Kathleen Taylor, Peter Waasdorp
Absent: Bernard Burke, Carolyn Powers

The meeting was held at the home of Sue Cohan and was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Katie Abrams.

AGENDA

Secretary's Report - Review of SA Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2008 – Sue Cohan

The board reviewed the minutes taken by Arthur on March 18. Peter moved to add Sue's name to the 'absent' list and then to accept the minutes. Arthur seconded. VOTED.

Treasurer's Report - Michael Eder

As of 5/13/08 the Eastern MMF balance was \$7186.92, the checking balance was \$221.58. **Mike** will provide an accounting for the annual meeting.

Membership Update – Barbara Eck

Membership stats: 147 members. Six will be purged at end of June-> 141 renewals for 2008. Generally we hover around 150 members.

Kathy has assembled a list of new Sippewissett residents. Sylvia Vatuk and **Kathy** will put together a membership packet to send to these new residents. The letter will indicate 'Dues are not tax deductible'.

Arthur opened a discussion of whether we should extend our area of concern to West Falmouth, suggesting that interests relative to the shore-side boundaries of that area are common to ours. He also felt that SA might have more clout with the town's organizational and political entities if we were to represent a larger constituency. Barbara recalled that previous discussions of this had lost momentum; no decision had been reached. It was agreed to revisit this topic at a future Board meeting.

Membership form changes for 2008: **Barbara** will add optional donation for 'SippOwisset information'.

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Barbara Eck

Barbara presented the slate below. The terms of Carolyn Powers, Peter Waasdorp and Bernard Burke will expire in June. It was noted that Bernard did not feel he could continue on the board.

Officers for 2008-2009

President: Katie Abrams
VP: Barbara Eck

Treasurer: Michael Eder
Secretary: Susan Cohan

Board for 2008-2009

Katie Abrams
Susan Cohan
Margaret Goud Collins
Maureen Conte
Barbara Eck
Michael Eder

Arthur Gaines
Deborah Gove
Carolyn Powers
Kathleen Taylor
Peter Waasdorp

Peter moved to accept the slate. Barbara seconded. VOTED. This slate will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting.

Web Site Update – Sue Cohan

Sue reviewed the website content that might be considered dated. The following actions will be taken:

- Home – Annual Meeting notice will be placed in Upcoming Event box
- News – remove paragraph about DEP Wetlands Appeal Process, relocate to a new section of History
- Ongoing Activities – Woodneck Beach Study- no action; research still in progress
- Ongoing Activities – Phragmites - **Katie** will ask Courtney Bird or Betsy Gladfelter for an article for the newsletter. We can extract a summary for the website.
- Ongoing Activities – SippOwisset – no action.
- Ongoing Activities – Beebe Woods – **Peter** will again request that the FINAL study be posted on the ConCom website
- Ongoing Activities – Cape Codder Condominium Wastewater Disposal System Assessment – add an item about this with link to the report
- Ongoing Activities – Coastal Access committee – add an item about this
- Links - make sure there is a link to the Baywatchers site
- Links – add a link to the Falmouth Beach Management report
- History – leave it as ‘under construction’. **Arthur** will remind Hartley about providing historical information.
- History – include Advocacy heading with DEP Wetlands Appeal Process item
- Get Involved – **Barbara** will provide electronic version of new Membership Form

Annual Meeting planning

The annual meeting will be held June 28 at the Cape Codder Club House. Setup will be at 9:00 am, coffee will be served at 9:30 am, and the meeting will start at 10:00 am.

The speaker will be Korrin Petersen, Advocacy Director and Staff Attorney from the Coalition for Buzzards Bay; Mark Rasmussen may also attend.

Katie has provided suggested speaking points to Korrin. Additional ideas were suggested during tonight’s meeting which Katie noted.

Katie will assign tasks in the next week or so.

Summer Social planning

The Klein-Robenhaars will host the social which will be held August 3rd 3-5 pm.

Summer Newsletter

Planned articles

Falmouth Friendly Lawns – Maureen has already provided a reprint of an article.

Palmer Ave. Bridge update - **Katie**

Bike Trail status – **Margaret**

SippOwisset update--**Arthur**

Woodneck Beach Study—**Betsy Gladfelter**

Membership+dues – **Barbara Eck**

Proposed slate of officers – **Barbara Eck**

Buffer regs- **Betsy Gladfelter**

Phragmites- **Courtney Bird**

Katie will check with Betsy and Courtney.

Articles should be to Tinker by June 5.

Barbara needs the newsletter from **Tinker** by June 14 to get out mailing by late June. **Peter and Katie** will do necessary follow up.

Noise Control Committee update - Peter

Katie represented SA at a recent meeting. Both Peter and Katie felt the discussion with the police chief was positive and that the police will be trying to address the noise issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Coastal Access Committee - Michael Eder+Arthur Gaines

Michael, Arthur, Hartley Hoskins and Carl Bowen have met to discuss the problem of structures such as groins and rip rap being built to or beyond the low water mark, cutting off public access to the shoreline.

The committee would like to use the Gunning Point area as an educational case-in-point. They propose to produce an aerial photo of the coastline superimposed on a map showing back lot lines. The map could be used to remind property owners that they don't own to the low water line and should not be building there.

The committee feels it would take an independent survey to guarantee accuracy of the position of back lot lines. Information available through the town's GIS system can be off by 20-30 feet and the town does not rely on it. Michael suggested that as a first step we approve \$100 to join the Barnstable Registry of Deeds in order to print deeds.

The committee's goal is to educate the community about coastal access rights, then to work toward getting the town and state to support those rights. Katie requested that the committee provide a written statement of goals.

Maureen noted that Marblehead has gone through this previously; perhaps we can learn from them.

The committee's suggestion prompted a great deal of debate and after lengthy discussion, Katie moved that the Sippewissett Association allocate the \$100, allowing the Coastal Access committee to print some of the town maps. Peter seconded. VOTED.

Since this was the first time most of the Board heard about the project, displaying some maps at Annual Meeting was approved, but that is as far as we will go until there is more Board Discussion.

OTHER

SippOwisset - Sweeney vs. Town of Falmouth

Arthur described the proceedings at this week's Barnstable Superior Court hearing. The judge has taken the case under advisement.

The next meeting will be held July 17, 2008.

Barbara moved to adjourn the meeting. VOTED at 9:27 PM.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association

