

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 – December 6, 2011 – Draft1 with ‘SippOwisset’ edits from Arthur

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Susan Cohan, Margaret Goud Collins, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines, Debbie Gove, Merle Mizell, Nancy McDonald, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Mary Fran Buckley, Bob Skilton

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

AGENDA

Secretary’s Report – Sue Cohan

October 13, 2011 Draft1 meeting minutes were reviewed. There were no changes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and VOTED.

Treasurer’s Report – Karl Audenaerde

Karl reported a Money Market balance of \$10,544.30 and a checking balance of \$640.82.

With regard to a budget for fiscal 2012:

- He indicated membership income since the fall billing is down 10% from last year.
- He reviewed the donations we made in 2011. Arthur suggested we plan to increase the amount to be given to SPABSI (Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.) from \$250 to \$300 since they own or manage a significant portion of the Sippewissett shoreline. The Board agreed and will adjust other donation amounts downward if necessary to keep our expenses in check. (No formal vote was taken.)
- He did not have information comparing the costs of the 2010 annual meeting and summer social to those in 2011. **Karl** intends to maintain more detailed expense breakdowns which will support this type of request in the future.

Karl requested that **Board members** submit outstanding expense reimbursement requests prior to 12-15-2011.

Membership Report – Karl for Bob Busby

We currently have 113 paid members.

Membership Reminder Cards – **Maureen** will ask **Bob** to provide mailing labels for 2010-2011 members who have not paid 2011-2012 dues and will get those to **Peter**.

Peter will follow up with **Kathy** about her availability to do a targeted mailing to Racing Beach. Mailing list will be developed from the assessor’s list. **Sue** will work with her.

Website Report – Sue Cohan

Sue reported new 1&1 web hosting fee is \$6.99/month, up from \$4.99/month.

By next meeting **Sue** will do a content review/update. As needed, she will either request new content or propose updates and request reviews from other Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Winter newsletter

The desired mailing target for the winter newsletter is mid-January. (This means the article completion deadline is early January.)

Articles for this issue:

- Sewer disks on the beaches - **Mary Fran**
- Coyotes - **Karl**
- Plovers - **Nancy and Debbie**
- Oyster farming update(if needed) - **Mary Fran**

Future committed articles:

- Sea level rise – **Arthur** (probably for summer 2012 newsletter)

Other potential topics:

- Phragmites projects – **Dick Payne**
- President's Corner – what SA is doing and how it relates to resident associations

SippOwisset update – Arthur Gaines

- **Sweeney property.** A current concern is that a spec house may be planned for the Sweeney land. Trees have been cleared all the way to the water's edge. ConCom has been notified of this fact. The ConCom says the DEP has approved the clearing and that according to earlier court decisions the Town is out of the decision loop. There remains a question as to whether the DEP decision required notification of abutters. We will pursue this matter.
- **43+45 Gunning Point.** Applications for work along the waterfront of these properties involve two adjacent lots owned by different parties—the applicant and the owner of the coastal belt as depicted on the town assessor's map. Concom agreed that the applications can go forward if at least one of the owners of the coastal belt agrees. Langley Keyes is one of the owners, by testamentary succession from prior subdivision owners, and gave his permission for the proposed action. However, at least two other owners of the coastal belt are known but no indication has been made of their position on the proposed project. A further complication is that of the two projects under review, one owner claims he actually owns to the water and has produced a document that he claims proves this. The other applicant claims he does not own to the water and therefore he is not responsible for an unlicensed groin that impedes pedestrian access in front of his property. Michael Eder has worked persistently and has succeeded in helping ConCom understand that the permitting process in the coastal belt of Gunning Point must be consistent with existing law, whichever view of ownership is accepted. C.O.S.H. position is that no person can give permission to a project in the coastal belt that impedes the assurance of access granted to 193 lot owners in 1897 by the original planners of the subdivision. Arthur remarked that this situation is different from most if not all the coastal areas in Falmouth, a distinction which the ConCom now understands.
- **Survey of the seaward bound (mean low water) of the SippOwisset Gunning Point shoreline starting from the fixed back lot line**
No update from Hartley.

Archives

Peter and Maureen have cartons of records for Rosemary. Maureen thinks Jack Pierce also has cartons. All should be delivered to Rosemary when possible.

Plovers

Nancy suggested that new signs of an educational nature are needed at Woodneck. The signs should help visitors distinguish plovers from other birds frequenting the area; explain why it's important for there to be no dogs on the beach, etc. Maureen thought an informational kiosk could also work. Karl and Maureen suggested that an update about the plovers be submitted to the Enterprise. **Nancy** will pursue with Audubon to try to get an educational sign similar to that which has been installed at South Cape beach. **Nancy and Debbie** will write an article for the Enterprise.

Cleaning of hidden and dirty road signs

The whole Board can be involved in this. Everyone should clear and clean sign(s) and send a picture to the group. (How about a 'before' and an 'after'?). Peer pressure can drive this project!

Beccles Rd path

No update at this time. Put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Plots dug in Little Sippewissett marsh – Debbie

Debbie had recently reported the appearance of several rectangular plots that had been dug into Little Sippewissett marsh. Arthur determined that ConCom had not been aware of these; they are now. Other plots have also been reported in Great Sippewissett marsh and sites as far as Mashpee. Courtney Bird determined that the plots have been dug by UMass-Dartmouth students doing research on sea level rise. The Board will wait to see what action ConCom may take since these unpermitted plots are clearly in violation of wetlands regulations.

Annual meeting date and place – June 23, 2012 at Cape Codder (if available). Peter will check.

Winter social - The Board seems interested in having a social including a speaker although the question of liability insurance and its associated cost continues to be an issue. There was uncertainty as to whether having a BYOB event could eliminate or reduce the risk. A tentative date of Sunday March 18, 2012 was set. Peter will check availability of the West Falmouth Library and the Cape Codder. The Board will review this again before any commitment is made.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 9, 2011 (RESCHEDULED to 2-16-12) at Maureen Conte's house, 37 Haynes Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association