

## 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 19, 2012 – Draft 1 (includes edits from Arthur) APPROVED 06-07-2012**

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Mary Fran Buckley, Susan Cohan, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines, Merle Mizell, Nancy McDonald, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Margaret Goud Collins, Bob Skilton, Debbie Gove

The meeting was held at the home of Pres. Peter Waasdorp and was called to order by him at 7:11 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

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

The minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Karl asked that the section 'Wood Neck Pond concern' be reworded. A motion was made to approve the minutes with this change. Seconded and VOTED.

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

Karl reported a Money Market balance of \$ 10,546.27 and a checking balance of \$767.45.

We will need an estimate from Coalition for Buzzards Bay of the cost of water quality testing for summer 2012 prior to the Annual Meeting. **Maureen** indicated that Tony Williams usually sends this information. Based on the last two years' costs Karl suggested the amount would likely be in the \$770-\$870 range.

#### **Website Report – Sue Cohan**

**Arthur** will provide a minor update to the Wood Neck beach-related Ongoing Activity topic.

A website statistics report was sent to Board members this month.

#### **Membership Report – Karl**

We have 129 paid members for this membership year. Four people have paid for next year.

The targeted mailing to Racing Beach yielded three new members. Karl questioned whether the cost of the mailing was worth the result. The feeling was that, in addition to generating new members, the mailing has value in terms of educating area residents about our Association.

Several new members have recently joined unrelated to the targeted mailing.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Winter social – Peter**

There was a good turnout. Several reasons were suggested:

- People were positive about the West Falmouth Library as a venue.
- The weather impacted attendance – positively this year!
- People seem to enjoy a format which includes both social and educational components. Arthur's talk about the status of the Wood Neck beach studies was well-received.

#### **Current state of Wood Neck beach**

The fence protecting the dune is in poor condition. Karl reported that the town recently put up an effective fence near the bike path beyond the Trunk River.

Maureen suggested we erect and maintain an informational kiosk at Wood Neck beach. Peter will look into permitting requirements. The kiosk will probably will cost in the vicinity of \$200.

**Peter** reported he had sent an email to the Beach Committee, the D.P.W. and ????? concerning the historical lack of process relative to beach nourishment activities and the resultant negative impact. The Beach Committee email box was full and he received no acknowledgment from other two departments. It was suggested that results might be better if a letter were sent.

#### **Plovers – Nancy**

Audubon still doesn't have signs warning to keep off the dunes that can be used on Wood Neck beach to help protect the plovers.

The banded plover that was on Wood Neck beach last year has been spotted in Saconneset.

#### **Plots dug in Little Sippewissett marsh**

Several months ago a UMass-Dartmouth graduate student under the supervision of Dr. Brian Howes dug plots in several marshes on the Upper Cape without obtaining necessary permits. The Falmouth ConCom, DEP, and possibly other towns are demanding mitigation of the damage and are monitoring this situation.

#### **Water levels at Wood Neck Pond – Karl**

Karl has been looking into measuring the water levels in Wood Neck Pond. He has tried to obtain (rent or borrow) a data logger from Onset Computer but without luck. Arthur will contact Nick Lowell, Engineering Director at Onset, to facilitate this. It was suggested that Karl take measurements at full moon when tidal fluctuations are greatest.

#### **Update on Gunning Point matters – Arthur**

Two Langley Rd. property owners built rip rap behind their back lot lines on what was formerly the Langley Keyes Gunning Pond property. They sought and obtained Langley Keyes' permission to do this. These structures have effectively interfered with public coastal access.

It was recently discovered that Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. (SPABSI) has, in fact, owned the Langley Keyes Gunning Pond property where these structures were built since 2010. SPABSI sent a letter to Falmouth's ConCom and Board of Selectmen stating that they are the owners of this land and have not granted permission for any structure to be built on it.

Maureen and Arthur suggested that SA should approach SPABSI about including in any agreement with the two Langley Rd. property owners a requirement that they must adjust their structures to bring them into compliance with state and local ordinances including those relative to public coastal access.

**Arthur** will contact Maureen, Hartley Hoskins, Michael Eder about speaking with Katie Taylor (Executive Dir. of SPABSI) concerning this matter.

#### **Beccles Rd/Cape Codder path**

Neighbors who have been away for the winter will be back soon and presumably will continue their efforts toward reopening this path.

#### **Cleaning of hidden and dirty road signs**

Maureen suggested we should look into getting a few 'Bike trail/share the road' signs to hang on some of the road signs along Sippewissett Rd.

#### **Phragmites update**

According to Dick Payne, \$55K has been pledged; \$73K is needed to treat the three ponds (Wood Neck, Gunning and Flume). It seems the intent is to continue to bundle the

three ponds as a single project. It was noted again that there have been sufficient pledges received to proceed with Wood Neck pond treatment independently.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Annual meeting speaker**

**The SA annual meeting will be held** June 23rd at the Cape Codder clubhouse.

**Nancy** will give an update on the local plovers. **Arthur** will ask Atty. Robert Mangiaratti (from Sweeney case) if he would speak about the public's coastal rights. Alternately, we may ask Mark Rasmussen of the CBB to speak about watershed issues.

### **Nomination for Board and officers**

**The following** Board members' terms expire in June: Karl, Mary Fran, Maureen, Arthur, Nancy. Each is willing to stand for election to a new 3 year term. Peter, Karl and Sue are willing to stand for election as officers in their current positions for another 1 year term.

**Peter** will check with Maggie to determine if she will continue as VP and will be available to complete her term on the Board.

### **Summer newsletter**

Ideas for articles for the summer newsletter:

- Phragmites update – lead article – Dick Payne
- Coli form and flushing – Arthur
- Speed limits/bicycle safety – Maureen
- Kiosk?
- SPABSI's contribution to quality of life in Sippewissett?

Mary Fran would like to aim for a June 1 deadline. We need to include a notice of the annual meeting. The newsletter should be mailed *at least* two weeks in advance of June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **SPABSI endowment**

Arthur moved that we make a \$1000 one time donation to SPABSI in response to their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary solicitation for endowment replenishment funds and in recognition of their contribution to the quality of life in Sippewissett. Seconded and **VOTED *subject to approval of the annual meeting*** due to the size of the gift.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday June 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Sue's or Nancy's house.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Susan Cohan, Secretary  
Sippewissett Association