

**Sippewissett Association**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2007 (Approved 06/28/2008 with 1 correction)**

The annual meeting was held at the Cape Codder Club House. It was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Pres. Katie Abrams, who welcomed attendees. There were 32 people in attendance including board members.

**Treasurer's Report – Michael Eder**

The report was prepared by Michael Eder, Treasurer, who was not in attendance so the report was presented by Kathy Taylor. The treasury had balances of \$10,738.47 January 1, 2006 and \$9,116.35 December 31, 2006. The current balance is approximately \$10,000 and is increasing as dues come in. Kathy reviewed the groups receiving donations from SA during 2006.

**Review of SA 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Copies of the minutes were available for review by all attendees. There were no corrections. Peter Waasdorp moved to accept the minutes. Seconded and VOTED.

**Membership Report – Barbara Eck**

151 households are members of whom 5 are complimentary memberships and 13 are non-renewers who will be dropped from membership list after one year of non-payment. So, there are currently 133 paid-up memberships.

Sixty-five enrollments have been received in the initial group of responses to the membership mailing. Barbara requested that attendees speak to new neighbors about SA membership.

**Beebe Woods Report - Maureen Conte**

Maureen reviewed the history of the Beebe Woods committee. In 2004 a committee was formed to develop a plan for Beebe Woods with focus on fire management and other resource management issues. This committee completed its work and provided its report about 6 months ago, recommending plans for land management, natural resources, forest management, uses, and dog usage. The financial value of the woods was also considered. The committee's report is available on the town website.  
<http://www.town.falmouth.ma.us/deppage.php?number=295>

**Woodneck Beach Report – Maureen Conte**

Maureen reminded the group that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay runs a water quality testing program. The SA provides volunteers who test along the Sippewissett shoreline.

The December 2005 storm severely effected Woodneck Beach and nearly blocked the mouth of the Little Sippewissett marsh. This blockage has had a major water quality impact resulting in the situation receiving both town-wide as well as neighborhood attention. Consequently, a consultant study has been funded to review marsh flushing and sand flow. Maureen and other SA members also plan to conduct water sampling under varied tidal conditions. Based on these test results and the consultant's report it should then be possible to formulate an effective plan for beach and marsh restoration.

**Phragmites Action in Sippewissett Place – Margaret Goud Collins**

Maggie spoke about the phragmites invasion of Little Sippewissett Marsh and the initiative underway by Sippewissett Place homeowners who were requesting approval

from the Con Com for phragmites treatment. The plan to be used was developed with the assistance of Dick Payne and follows a standard procedure promoted by the state.

Treatment is scheduled this fall and will be conducted by volunteers. Expenses associated with the project are purchase of chemical and the hiring of a licensed herbicide applicator. Estimated treatment cost is \$1200-\$1500 per half-acre; two to three acres require treatment. Successful treatment could require 2 – 3 applications. Plans are to treat one acre initially.

The Sippewissett Place homeowners hope that other abutters of the marsh will also consider treating phragmites in their area. Unless all clumps are treated the plants will eventually overtake already-cleared areas.

### **SippOwissett Homeowners Report – Arthur Gaines**

Arthur first discussed the distinction between ‘Sippewissett’ (a rough geographical area of Falmouth) and ‘SippOwissett’ (a specific registered sub-division that falls within Sippewissett). He referred to a map of the SippOwissett sub-division and discussed the history of efforts by a current owner to convert the lot known as the ‘reservation lot’ into a building lot, the impact of which would be loss of waterview to certain owners and loss of deeded beach rights to all SippOwissett owners. While the SippOwissett owners are fighting this specific battle, attempting to develop land which is believed to be protected against such development is a problem that clearly can recur elsewhere.

Two years ago a fourth attempt at conversion was initiated by the lot owner. Arthur listed the steps of the review and appeal process and its current status.

- The town is defending the appeal against the Con Com decision in favor of the SippOwissett owners in Barnstable County Superior Court; the result of that appeal is pending.
- The SippOwissett owners are awaiting a response from the DEP administrative judge to their most recent challenge.
- A Land Court complaint has been initiated against the lot owner based on violation of deeded rights, adverse possession, and rights by estoppel.

The SippOwissett owners would appreciate a show of public support in Land Court or Superior Court; they will let people know when and where help is needed. Financial support to defray legal costs would also be appreciated.

The attendees thanked Arthur and others for their tireless efforts pursuing this issue.

(A complete update concerning this issue can be found in the summer 2007 newsletter.)

### **Previous Year Review**

#### **Newsletter – Kathy Taylor**

SA will be contacting members to determine if they would like to receive communications via email.

#### **Socials – Peter Waasdorp**

The winter social was held at the West Falmouth Library  
The summer social will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>; details will follow.

### **Introduction of Board Members - Katie Abrams**

Katie introduced new and returning board members. Names are listed at the end of this document.

### **Election of Board Members**

Peter moved to accept the slate of board of directors nominees. Seconded and VOTED.  
Peter moved to accept the slate of officers for a 1 year term. Seconded and VOTED.

### **Discussion: Focus of Sippewissett Association**

Katie read the 'Purpose' section of the Articles of Incorporation and solicited input from attendees concerning their feelings about what direction the SA should be taking; this was prompted by a lively discussion of this topic at the last board meeting.

No attendees expressed concern or displeasure with the current purpose statement.

### **Other Business**

Peter Waasdorp indicated that the Town Noise Prevention Committee will be posting signs along Sippewissett Rd. that decibel laws will be enforced with the intent to reduce motorcycle noise. Concern was also raised about noise level from landscapers; it was thought there are no laws on the books limiting that.

Katie mentioned that SA has been working with the police to try to address speeding on Sippewissett Rd.

### **New Business**

An attendee indicated a homeowner had removed many trees near the Gunning Point beach. Peter Waasdorp said this situation had been brought to Con Com which had ruled that that area should be re-vegetated; an article will appear in the Enterprise about this. All should be aware that there is a 100 ft. buffer around any body of water or vernal pool. Sylvia Vatuk noted another homeowner has recently done a similar thing. Peter said it should be reported to Con Com.

### **Speaker: Jo Ann Muramoto**

Jo Ann, who is a Senior Scientist with the APCC (Association to Preserve Cape Cod) and Regional Coordinator for the Massachusetts Bay Program, provided a review of APCC projects. Here are some highlights of her comments.

- Wastewater management is the biggest issue for the Cape.
- APCC promotes:
  - Development of a Cape-wide oil spill plan (Buzzards Bay already has its own plan),
  - The Cape Cod Water Resources Project which is addressing issues in three categories: fixing salt marshes, fixing storm water outfalls and repairing fish runs,
  - The Greenscapes program which recommends environmentally friendly landscape practice for homeowners
- Relationship of APCC to certain other organizations:
  - The DEP wetlands group is concerned with permitting and enforcement where the APPC is more outreach, technical advise and training
  - APPC works closely with the Cape Cod Commission on regional planning

Concerning the Cape Cod Water Resources Project, this group in conjunction with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) has identified 24 priority sites in each of the three categories mentioned above. See the NRCS website for detailed information about the project.

<http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CCWRRP/>

Three areas in Sippewissett were identified as needing attention but are not currently on the priority list. For a project to get funded it must have both technical validity as well as public support. Completion of the Woodneck Beach study could give this project a leg up in getting funding.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:47AM.

Submitted by:

Susan Cohan, Secretary  
Sippewissett Association

### **Board and Officers - Elected 2007**

#### **Officers - (1 year term)**

President - Katherine Abrams  
V-Pres. - Barbara Eck  
Treasurer - Michael Eder  
Secretary - Susan Cohan

#### **3 year term on the Board:**

Susan Cohan  
Margaret Goud Collins  
Barbara Eck

#### **Continuing on the Board are: year elected**

Katharine Abrams	2006
Bernard Burke	2005
Maureen Conte	2005
Michael Eder	2006
Arthur Gaines	2006
Carolyn Powers	2005
Kathleen Taylor	2006
Peter Waasdorp	2005