

Sippewissett Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2011 – draft2 APPROVED

The annual meeting was held at the Cape Codder Clubhouse and was called to order at 10:02 A.M. by Pres. Peter Waasdorp. There were approximately 32 people in attendance including Board members.

Committee Reports

Review of SA 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan

Copies of the minutes were reviewed by attendees. Sue indicated a correction to five references to fiscal year in the Treasurer's report section. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the indicated corrections. Seconded and VOTED.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

For fiscal 2010 the starting balance was \$9456.07, the ending balance was \$10,455.68. Our balance was improved by the Cape Codder escrow income of \$3,000.00. This was largely offset by the donation to SPABSI of \$2,500.00 toward the purchase of land owned by the Langley brothers. Karl reviewed the proposed 2011 budget which showed a net for the year of \$870.00.

Karl recommended dues for membership year 2011-2012 be left at \$27.50. A motion was made for the membership to approve dues of \$27.50 for membership year 2011-2012. Seconded and VOTED.

Karl recommended donations for fiscal 2011 consistent with the vote taken at the 2010 annual meeting as follows: Coalition for Buzzards Bay (restoration and protection of the Bay) \$350; The 300 Committee (preservation and protection of natural lands in Falmouth) \$350; F.A.C.E.S. (Falmouth Association Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds - water quality issues, expertise relative to waste water treatment and pond cleanup) \$200; Salt Pond Bird Sanctuaries (conservation of Falmouth natural resources) \$250; Association to Preserve Cape Cod (protection of Cape Cod's natural resources and way of life) \$250. These total \$1400. In addition, he recommended full funding of the Baywatchers water quality testing program (see further discussion below).

Maureen Conte discussed the fact that the amount of the 2010 water quality testing charge - estimated at \$773, passed by membership at the 2010 annual meeting, and due during fiscal 2011 - will actually be zero because the Coalition for Buzzards Bay (CBB) obtained grant funding to cover it. A discussion concerning funding of water quality testing by Sippewissett Association (SA) ensued.

Maureen made a motion to hold/restrict the \$773 voted for 2010 water quality testing for 'water quality testing activities in general', not strictly the CBB testing program. Kathy Taylor recommended restricting only money that was donated via membership forms specifically for water quality testing for that purpose. Vicky Lowell agreed with Kathy, commenting that further restriction of general funds could limit the flexibility of Board action too severely. Peter recommended a resolution as follows: 1. Maureen withdrew her motion and made a new motion, that SA will fully fund the 2011 CBB water testing program (typically payable in our fiscal 2012). CBB has provided an estimate of \$840 for this testing. Seconded. VOTED. 2. An additional motion was made to limit overall water testing expenditures drawn from donations and SA's general funds to a total of \$1000 without coming back to the membership. Seconded. VOTED.

A motion was made for the membership to accept the proposed \$1400 donation level (fiscal 2011) exclusive of CBB water quality testing. Seconded and VOTED.

Membership Report – Karl Audenaerde for Bob Busby

At the close of the 2010-2011 membership year there are 129 paid-up members plus 5 complimentary members. We have a slow downward trend in membership.

New Resident Letter - Kathy Taylor

Kathy has sent out new membership packets. We need to solicit neighbors to bring our membership number back in the 140 range. Peter indicated we would work toward a 140 membership level.

Website Update – Susan Cohan

Sue reminded attendees that we have a website at sippewissett.org where members can find information about upcoming events and a description of ongoing activities with links to the most recent newsletter update on each topic. New this year is an archive of several years of Board meeting minutes. One member suggested putting new membership information including the membership form on the website. (Sue checked after the meeting and the form is there already.)

Board and Officers Election – Peter Waasdorp

Peter reviewed the proposed slate. Election of Peter Waasdorp and Deborah Gove for another three year term was moved, seconded and VOTED. Re-election of the current slate of officers for another one year term was moved, seconded and VOTED. See below for the 2011-2012 Board membership.

SippOwisset/Committee of SippOwisset Homeowners Wrap-Up (C.O.S.H.) – Hartley Hoskins

All legal bills have been paid. Peter thanked all involved for their multi-year effort.

Baywatchers Update – Maureen Conte

There is a large group of volunteers this year. Water quality testing is done weekly plus four times per year nutrient testing is done which is analyzed at MBL. Maureen will put you in touch with Tony Williams of CBB if you'd like to volunteer. It was suggested that we have an article in an upcoming newsletter describing the type of water testing being conducted by Mitch Sogin at MBL.

Winter and Summer Socials – Peter Waasdorp

The Winter Social was held at the Quarterdeck. A good time was had by those attending but it was largely just the Board and their guests. Next year the Winter Social will probably be held in a private home. The Summer Social will be held Sunday August 7, 2011 at the home of Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar, 217 Sippewissett Rd., 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Plover Update – Nancy McDonald

Nancy has been following the progress of the plovers nesting on Woodneck beach. There were four eggs of which 2 hatched. She showed wonderful pictures of the nest with eggs and the babies. Interestingly, the mother had been banded in the Bahamas so it was possible to know something of how she came to Woodneck. Concerns were aired about the repeated destruction of the fences placed to protect the plovers.

Quiet Roads Update – Peter Waasdorp

Noise signs were posted at both ends of Sippewissett Rd. and there was some level of enforcement last year. Since then the signs have been stolen and the budget crunch has limited enforcement. Quiet Roads committee activity is on hold right now due to the budget situation. An attendee indicated that if you see a speeding motorcycle and can get the license forward it to the police who will send a letter to the offender and have it on record to consider should a subsequent ticket be issued.

Aquaculture Update

Sippewissett Oysters now has a website. Maureen suggested serving their oysters at the summer social.

Other Business

An attendee expressed concern about the increased coyote population and suggested it needs to be managed (i.e., find and reduce size of litters). He recommended that SA send a letter but there was no support expressed for this action by others.

Peter asked that pictures of Sippewissett in the past be sent to him so he can pass them on to someone compiling a new history of the area.

An attendee asked that a railing be placed at Gunning Beach. Peter indicated we would pass this request on to C.O.S.H.

Sylvia Vatuk brought up the issue of the obstructed right of way from the Cape Codder to Beccles Rd. There will be a meeting of individuals interested in pursuing this sometime soon. Let Peter or Sylvia know if you're interested.

Bob Busby asked if there's any update about access from Sippewissett to the bike path. Nancy said there is nothing happening on this in Sippewissett Place. If you go up Clowes Rd. through Sippewissett Highlands you can get to the bike path.

Peter thanked Board members for their contributions.

Guest Speaker – Richard Payne, WHOI Oceanographer Emeritus

In 2004 at the prompting of the Conservation Commission Dick surveyed all of Falmouth's wetlands for invasives, specifically purple loosestrife and phragmites. Phragmites was found to be more prevalent. As a test case a small area of Little Sippewissett marsh was treated by Raposa. First it was mowed then hand treated with herbicide. While effective, this was extremely labor intensive. A Sippewissett Place project was subsequently organized by Nancy McDonald and Courtney Bird. In the first year stalks were cut and left to rot. Chris Polatin used a low flow back pack sprayer to apply herbicide working only in low-wind conditions. In the second year very little phragmites came back. In the third year spartina began to return.

A project is now underway to treat Woodneck, Flume, and Gunning ponds. People around Woodneck have pledged money for that part of the project. Dick approached the CBB which suggested lumping the 3 ponds together as a single project. CBB will apply for WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) funding to treat these 8 total acres of phragmites. Mark Rasmussen of CBB feels there is a good chance of receiving this funding. He will also look for foundation funding to pay for ongoing maintenance. Total estimated project cost is \$68500. Dick currently has pledges of \$30000. WHIP funding might be \$12 or 13K if it comes through. Dick will be soliciting additional pledges later this year.

Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. (SPABSI) and the 300 Committee own the parcels involved and will allow CBB access to treat. CBB plans to get someone trained to apply herbicide so CBB can manage ongoing maintenance themselves. If volunteers move the cut stalks it could save \$5-\$10K.

Wastewater Planning Update – Chris Neill, President, Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds (FACES)

Water quality has gone down over the past 40 years. Acid rain, fertilizer, and human wastewater (the dominant source) are the primary sources of nitrogen. The town wants to keep its varied water resources in line with established water quality standards. To this end the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) was written. The primary focus of this effort is to decrease the nitrogen from human wastewater that ends up in estuaries.

The initial phases focus on part of East Falmouth. We would need to take out nearly 100% of the nitrogen to get back to 1960 conditions. Sewers will very likely be required to do this. The CWMP estimates the cost for this to be \$300 million+.

Based on committee review there have been changes to the initial CWMP. The current wastewater treatment plant will be expanded rather than building an additional one. Other Issues under consideration: Can Falmouth afford the current plan? Are there other options? (Some under consideration are alternative toilets and aquaculture.)

In May 2011 town meeting voted to: 1. Continue with the CWMP and get a proposal to the State in order to get funding before it dries up, 2. Devote \$1.5 million to explore alternatives. A new committee will soon be formed to oversee wastewater management in Falmouth.

What does the CWMP sewerage plan mean to Sippewissett? There is benefit to the whole town. A major issue is how do we pay - should only sewerage homeowners pay or should cost be divided evenly around town which would be about \$350 per homeowner? What is fair?

Q&A:

Q: Do we have the expertise to go through a process that will convince residents that the options are valid?

A: Tie in to the Woods Hole institutions can help. This is why the new committee will be important.

Q: Will the Federal Government have to step in?

A: There is a lawsuit against the DEP by the CBB to force the government to enforce the Clean Water Act. It will be better for us if the town can address the problem without the government forcing the issue.

Q: What will happen if we do not act?

A: More incidents of impactful stench from poor water quality will occur which will drive away tourists and others with connections to town.

Q: What about an 'adaptive management' approach?

A: The regulatory environment has not been flexible historically. We need to do a serious amount of work, examine its impact on the water quality, then decide on reasonable further future actions.

Q: What about the clustered wastewater treatment plant approach?

A: The committee decided clusters are less effective for the area to be treated. They can still be considered for other parts of town, however.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

Submitted by:

Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association

Board and Officers for 2011-2012

Officers – (1 year term)

President – Peter Waasdorp, Vice President – Margaret Goud Collins,
Treasurer - Karl Audenaerde, Secretary – Susan Cohan

3 year term on the Board:

Deborah Gove	2011
Peter Waasdorp	2011

Continuing on the Board: Year elected

Karl Audenaerde	2009
Mary Fran Buckley	2009
Maureen Conte	2009
Arthur Gaines	2009
Nancy McDonald	2009
Susan Cohan	2010
Margaret Goud Collins	2010
Bob Skilton	2010
Merle Mizell (elected Feb. 2011)	2011