

**Sippewissett Association**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2012 – APPROVED 06-22-2013**

The annual meeting was held at the Cape Codder Clubhouse and was called to order at 10:04 A.M. by Pres. Peter Waasdorp. There were approximately 45 people in attendance including Board members.

**Committee Reports**

**Review of SA 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan**

Copies of the minutes were reviewed by attendees. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde**

For fiscal 2011 the starting balance was \$10,455.68, the ending balance was \$11,143.83. Karl reviewed the proposed 2012 fiscal year budget for attendees.

The Board had voted to recommend that dues be left at \$27.50. A motion was made that the membership approve dues of \$27.50 for membership year 2012-2013. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

The Board had voted to recommend donations for fiscal 2012 consistent with those of 2011 as follows: Buzzards Bay Coalition ('BBC' - restoration and protection of the Bay) \$350; The 300 Committee (preservation and protection of natural lands in Falmouth) \$350; Falmouth Association Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds('FACES' - water quality issues, expertise relative to waste water treatment and pond cleanup) \$200; Salt Pond Bird Sanctuaries Inc. ('SPBSI' - conservation of Falmouth natural resources) \$250; Association to Preserve Cape Cod ('APPC' - protection of Cape Cod's natural resources and way of life) \$250. These donations total \$1400.

A question was raised as to whether SPBSI was subdividing or selling off any of its property in the Gunning Point area. Barrie Murray, President of SPBSI, stated this is not happening. However, she indicated that one lot has been returned to Langley Keyes because it had unintentionally been transferred to SPBSI. The question of whether the returned lot is the common beachfront lot was raised. Also, concern about encroachment on the common beachfront by certain waterfront property owners was expressed. It was agreed that Michael Eder, Hartley Hoskins, and Ken Foreman should meet with Barrie to review these concerns in more detail.

A motion was made for the membership to approve the recommended donations. Seconded. **PASSED** with one 'No' vote.

The Board had voted to recommend an additional donation of \$1000 be given this year to SPBSI on the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary capital campaign and in acknowledgment of its work in Sippewissett. A motion was made for the membership to approve the \$1000 donation. Seconded. **PASSED** with one 'No' vote.

The Board had voted to recommend full funding of the summer 2012 Baywatchers water quality testing program. The estimate provided by BBC was \$878.64 (\$73.22/sample, 4 sampling dates for each of 3 Sippewissett sites). Testing for a given summer is typically billed and paid during the following fiscal year. A motion was made to fund the summer 2012 water quality testing program up to a maximum of \$1000. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

**Membership Report – Karl Audenaerde**

At the close of the 2011-2012 membership year we have 129 paid-up members. Water quality testing donations totaled \$522.

**Website Update – Susan Cohan**

Sue reminded attendees that SA has a website at [sippewissett.org](http://sippewissett.org) where members can find information about upcoming events and a description of ongoing activities with links to recent newsletter updates on each topic. We also archive of several years of Board meeting minutes and newsletters. Members will find a summary of Attorney Mangiaratti's talk there as well.

### **Board and Officers Election – Peter Waasdorp**

Peter reviewed the proposed slate.

The election of Karl Audenaerde, Mary Fran Buckley, Maureen Conte, Arthur Gaines and Nancy McDonald for another three year term was moved. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

The election of the proposed slate of officers (listed at bottom) for another one year term was moved. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously. See below for a list of the 2012-2013 Board members and Officers.

### **Winter and Summer Socials – Peter Waasdorp**

Peter reported that winter socials will be continued.

The Summer Social will be held Sunday August 5, 2011 at the home of Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar, 217 Sippewissett Rd., 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Baywatchers Update – Maureen Conte**

Maureen reported that the Buzzards Bay Coalition (renamed from 'Coalition for Buzzards Bay') is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Its new satellite office in Woods Hole has been busy and its 'touch tank' has been a big hit. Among its activities the BBC advocates for the bay, works on watershed protection and runs the Baywatchers program. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> yr that SA has participated in the Baywatchers water quality sampling program. Data collected at Sippewissett's ponds has been used for wastewater planning and nutrient evaluations.

### **FACES Update – Maureen Conte**

FACES works on wastewater issues Cape-wide. In Falmouth its focus has been on education and advocacy for wastewater planning. It also initiated the Falmouth Friendly Lawn campaign several years ago. This year it began a PondWatcher program to monitor and encourage removal of nitrogen before it can reach the estuaries.

### **Phragmites Update – Richard Payne**

A proposal has been developed in conjunction with BBC to treat three Sippewissett ponds (Wood Neck, Gunning, and Flume). Richard has obtained \$65K in pledges; the project is estimated to cost \$75K initially plus \$15K to carry treatment forward to completion. He expects to have budgets from the treatment company in hand this week; the next step will be to bring the project to the Conservation Commission.

### **Plover Update – Nancy McDonald**

Nancy reported that the banded Wood Neck female had been spotted in the Bahamas for 2 consecutive winters. This spring she was sighted at Saconesset rather than Wood Neck. A nesting pair did, however, make Wood Neck its home this spring. As part of its 2<sup>nd</sup> nesting attempt the incubation of 4 eggs began May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Unfortunately the female disappeared the weekend of the Nor'easter and the eggs were abandoned. A Menauhant pair hatched 4 chicks but they soon disappeared. A Black Beach pair also hatched 4 chicks whose development seems to be proceeding. In 1987 there were 126 nesting pairs of piping plovers in the U.S.; in 2011 this number had risen to 655.

### **Salt Pond Bird Sanctuaries Update – Barrie Murray, President**

The Lovells, who founded SPBSI, were Barrie's aunt and uncle. They lived in Florida and were disturbed when they witnessed the destruction of the Everglades associated with its development; they brought their concern and passion for conservation with them to Falmouth. SPBSI now owns 250 acres. As part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary it has initiated a capital campaign in honor of the Lovells. Funds raised through this campaign will be used 1. To help the science department at FHS, 2. To protect historic buildings, and 3. For land acquisition. Barrie reminded attendees that it requires ongoing work to maintain the beauty of Falmouth.

A question was asked about the new path at Flume Pond and the degree of access to the pond that now exists. Dick Payne answered saying that Flume Pond is owned by the 300 Committee (not SPBSI) and that he is on its Board. He reported that the path to Flume Pond was cut in as far as possible but because there is wetland it could not be taken to the shoreline.

## Other Business

Michael Eder made a motion that SA's Right of Way Committee be re-activated and that the Board take an active interest in Sippewissett's rights of way. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

Jo Ann Muramoto of APCC thanked SA for its donations. She indicated APCC is looking for possible coastal salt marsh restoration projects in Falmouth. Please let her know of any candidates.

Stephen Billings announced the details of an upcoming Memorial Service to be held for his parents.

## Guest Speaker – Robert S. Mangiaratti, Esq. “Coastal Access: Who Can Go Where Along the Seashore”

Arthur Gaines introduced our guest speaker.

Mr. Mangiaratti presented an interesting and informative talk about ‘tidal flats’ – their definition, the common law that originally regulated their ownership and the changes to common law that came with the Massachusetts Colonial Ordinance. He spoke of the confusion that is now part of the case law concerning tidal flat ownership and rights.

Mr. Mangiaratti explained that the public's right to ‘fishing, fowling, and navigation’ is protected by licensing procedures in M.G.L. 91 which are administered by the Massachusetts D.E.P. Any shoreline landowner who intends to alter land in the tidal flats is required to get a Chapter 91 license from the Mass. D.E.P.

Many questions were asked and answered concerning topics such as: what specific activities are included in the right to ‘fish, fowl, and navigate’; what are the rights of people in subdivisions to beach access under various ownership and obstruction conditions.

The text upon which Mr. Mangiaratti's talk was based can be found at <http://sippewissett.org/resources/Seashore+Materials+Mangiaratti.pdf>

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 P.M.

Submitted by:

Susan Cohan, Secretary  
Sippewissett Association

## Board and Officers for 2012-2013

### Officers – (For a 1 year term)

President – Peter Waasdorp, Vice President – Arthur Gaines,  
Treasurer - Karl Audenaerde, Secretary – Susan Cohan

### For a 3 year term on the Board:

Karl Audenaerde	2012
Mary Fran Buckley	2012
Maureen Conte	2012
Arthur Gaines	2012
Nancy McDonald	2012

### Continuing on the Board:      Year elected

Susan Cohan	2010
Bob Skilton	2010
Merle Mizell (elected Feb. 2011)	2011
Deborah Gove	2011
Peter Waasdorp	2011
One Vacancy	