

Sippewissett Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2013 – APPROVED 06-21-2014

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 36 people in attendance including Board members.

Committee Reports

Review of 2012 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**. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

Balances at the start of fiscal year 2013 (1/1/2013) were \$970.84 in the checking account, \$9,549.87 in the money market account.

Karl presented the proposed FY2013 budget which was based on income from projected dues of \$30 per year from 150 members and water quality donations of \$400 to be collected during membership year 2013-2014. A motion was made to increase dues to \$30 per year. Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous.

A major portion of budgeted expenses is associated with donations made by SA to other organizations whose missions complement that of the Sippewissett Association. A motion was made to fund donations of \$1400 as follows: \$350-BBC(Buzzards Bay Coalition), \$350-300 Committee, \$250-APCC(Association to Preserve Cape Cod), \$200-FACES(Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds), and \$250-SPABSI(Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries). Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous.

Another significant SA expense is the water quality testing program. (See the BayWatchers Update below for a brief description of the program.) A motion was made to fund 2013 testing (which will be paid for during FY2014) in the amount of approximately \$800. Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous.

Membership report – Karl Audenaerde

At the close of membership year 2012-2013 we have 138 paid members compared with 129 at the end of last year.

Website Update – Susan Cohan

On website sippewissett.org members can find information about upcoming events and a description of ongoing activities, each with a link to a recent newsletter with an update associated to that topic. The website also archive several years of Board meeting minutes and newsletters for reference purposes.

Board and Officers Election – Peter Waasdorp

Maggie Collins and Mary Fran Buckley are retiring from the Board. Mary Fran will continue to produce the newsletter. Sue Cohan is retiring from the position of Secretary but will continue on the Board.

Peter reviewed the proposed slates for the Board and Officers for 2013-2014, which can be found at the bottom of this document. The following votes were taken:

- A motion was made to elect Susan Cohan, Michael Eder, Bob Skilton, and Judy Yost for three-year Board terms. Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous.
- A motion was made to elect the proposed slate of officers (listed at bottom) for a one-year term. Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous.

Winter and Summer Socials – Peter Waasdorp

The Summer Social will be held Sunday August 4, 2013 at the home of Ken Foreman and Anne Giblin, 108 Sippewissett Rd., 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Peter thanked Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar for hosting last year's event.

BayWatchers Update – Maureen Conte

BBC's BayWatchers water quality testing program is now in its second decade. BBC provides equipment and training while SA funds the testing and provides volunteers to collect water samples. You can make a donation targeted to this program by noting your intention on your membership form.

Plover Update – Nancy McDonald

This year there is a pair of plovers with chicks at Saconnesett and two pairs with chicks at Black Beach. One pair came to Wood Neck but it has disappeared, probably as a result of crows. A banded redknot sandpiper has been observed which is thought to be nearly 20 yrs. old. These sandpipers fly an amazing 18000 miles per year on average.

Phragmites Update – Peter Waasdorp reported for Richard Payne

A plan has been approved to treat Wood Neck Pond, Gunning Pond and Flume Pond. However, an abutter of Wood Neck Pond has recently objected to the intended use of herbicide so treatment of that pond is on hold. Treatment of the other two ponds will go forward.

Gunning Point ROW (Right-of-Way) Resolution – Michael Eder

Thanks were given to Hartley and Rosemary Hoskins who initiated and paid for the Gunning Point survey which has been and will continue to be instrumental to the settlement of ROW issues along the coastline.

Hartley offered thanks to Langley Keyes Jr. for deeding a key piece of property to SPABSI. This action has allowed community access to the water for SippOwisset residents to be preserved. A motion was made to formally thank Langley Keyes. Seconded. **PASSED**. Unanimous. Peter will write a letter.

SPABSI ownership now gives access to their land and associated amenities to the whole community, not only to SippOwisset landowners. Michael indicated the town will change their maps to show the SPABSI ownership. Interfering groins and stairs are being adjusted through Conservation Commission reviews to allow public access to these lands.

Peter and the membership thanked Michael for his efforts.

Coastal Access Committee Update – Arthur Gaines

The original Coastal Access Committee met for several years and produced a preliminary report at that time. Last year this Committee was reactivated by the SA Annual Meeting. Merle Mizell and Toni Steinacker are new members.

Arthur reported that there are a total of 23 coastal access points between Quissett Harbor and Wood Neck beach which are organized in five administrative areas. A total of nine governmental organizations control certain of these access points. SPABSI and several deeded-access subdivisions (such as Racing Beach, Gray Lane, Beccles Rd.) control others. There are also several special private access points, such as the access to the water on Standish Rd. for use by residents living within a 1 mile circle.

Peter and the membership thanked Arthur for his efforts.

Other Business

Ken Foote commented on the annual cutting of junipers outside the Cape Codder. He had no objection to the cutting but reported that disposal of the cuttings was ending up on the beach. He requested that disposal should be landward and not near the beaches. Peter will write a letter to the Board of the Cape Codder regarding trimming on the bank.

Debbie Gove will participate in the Buzzards Bay Swim in July. She spoke of the importance of supporting the BBC and requested that attendees donate to the ride in her name.

Karl Audenaerde then spoke about the BBC Bike Ride in September. He will be unable to ride this year but encouraged support of other riders.

FACES Update - Chris Neil

FACES supports Falmouth's plan to introduce filtration at Long Pond, particularly following the boil water order that occurred a couple of years ago. Filtration would occur through activated charcoal. Currently Falmouth water is treated with chlorine; at certain times of the year high levels of chlorine are required. Filtration will reduce but not totally eliminate the need for chlorination. The vote to fund the plan will occur next year.

The Comprehensive Water Resource Plan calls for limited sewerage plus exploration and potential use of alternative technologies to clean up Falmouth's estuaries. FACES believe this is a balanced approach and supports it. Focus on treatment is on Falmouth's southern shore since that is where the most severe degradation is. Chris urged SA members to support the plan and to vote to fund it next year.

Chris was asked about a letter which appeared in the Enterprise stating that nitrogen loaded water is attenuated as the water travels so the nitrogen problem can be resolved by addressing only the houses very near the water. Chris's considered opinion is that treatment should definitely start in densely populated areas near the shore. However, you can't really solve the problem without addressing the whole watershed in some fashion. Nitrogen loaded water in a watershed will eventually reach the shore; some attenuation may have occurred but it will not be sufficient.

Maureen mentioned the denitrifying system at the Cape Codder. This type of system can be important for high density housing located near the shore.

Chris was asked about the status of the Falmouth Friendly Lawn program. He indicated that lawn fertilizer is responsible for only 10-15% of the total nitrogen problem. Falmouth passed a bylaw restricting the use of lawn fertilizer (golf courses exempted). However, two weeks ago there was a ruling by the Attorney General that this bylaw is invalid. A state organization - the Dept. of Agricultural Resources - holds the right to regulate fertilizer use.

Guest Speaker – Mark Rasmussen, President, Buzzards Bay Coalition

Maureen introduced Mark and provided some information about his background. Mark then indicated his agenda would be to: 1. give a brief history of BBC, 2. describe the key programs for the Bay and challenges faced by the Bay, and 3. review the status of BBC projects which impact Slpewissett.

History

BBC's concern is not just the Bay, itself, but the whole watershed, which spans from Fall River to the Burger Kings on Rt.24 to Plymouth. The health of the watershed is instrumental to the health of the Bay.

(For historical information about BBC visit <http://savebuzzardsbay.org/AboutUs/History>)

Programs:

The BayWatcher program – This program has been collecting critical information about the health of the Bay for over 20 years.

Advocacy for the Bay – Example - As part of the aftermath of the 2003 Bouchard oil spill the BBC fought for an update to state law. Now every oil barge coming through the Bay requires two tugs and a local pilot.

Watershed protection – Nearly 7,000 acres of the watershed have been protected, with a focus on the deep river systems on the West side which provide incoming water to the Bay.

Educational activities

Challenges facing Buzzards Bay

There has been progress, but the Bay continues to have pollution problems. BBC reports on the 'State of the Bay' every four years. Nine indicators are used to track its condition. Several of the tracked indicators are:

Pollution – Bacteria and Toxics

New Bedford Harbor is only 27% cleaned up. The Mass Military Reservation has been largely cleaned up and this continues to go well. Both are much better than when BBC was formed. It is slow, progressive work.

Pollution - Nutrients

There are severe problems on the West side of the Bay. West Falmouth is the worst on the East side but there is a plan in place that will address it.

Public opinion is an additional indicator that will merit tracking. A recent survey shows that there is increasing disengagement with the Bay. 74% of people have the misconception that the Bay is healthy. Only 10-15% use the Bay. The BBC Coalition plans to work hard to get people out on the Bay to encourage re-engagement.

BBC and Sippewissett

Tony Williams is requesting an additional BayWatcher volunteer for the Gunning Point group.

There is good news about both West Falmouth and Quissett Harbors. West Falmouth has been capped at a max limit of nitrogen input. Falmouth's treatment plant can't handle the additional load. The current plan calls for use of an additional well to handle this load; impact of this will be watched closely by BBC. Quissett Harbor is one of the healthiest in the Bay. Inner Quissett Harbor has a small problem; removal of 22% of its nitrogen is needed to clean it up. This would require reducing the output from approximately 40 septic systems in Quissett.

Other comments

BBC sued the EPA for failing to deal with nitrogen pollution. The State is now funding development of a Cape-wide nitrogen plan.

Phragmites - BBC will handle maintenance after the initial removal project planned for Flume Pond and Gunning Pond is complete.

To find out more about the Bay and BBC - 1. visit their website, 2. look for Find an Adventure which is a portal for experiencing the Bay, 3. sign up for Bay Buzz, 4. Like them on Facebook.

Support the Bay Swim on July 13th and the Watershed Bike Ride on October 6th.

Status of wind turbines for the Bay - State regulations now limit turbines to a total of 10 in the Bay. Any project must gain both town and regional support. Mark feels that while 10 turbines would be legal they are 'unlikely'.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 A.M.

Submitted by:

Susan Cohan, Secretary
Sippewissett Association

Board and Officers for 2013-2014

Officers – (For a 1 year term)

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

For a 3 year term on the Board effective 2013

Susan Cohan
Bob Skilton
Judy Yost
Michael Eder

Continuing on the Board: Year elected

Merle Mizell (elected Feb. 2011)	2011
Deborah Gove	2011
Peter Waasdorp	2011
Karl Audenaerde	2012
Maureen Conte	2012
Arthur Gaines	2012
Nancy McDonald	2012