

## 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 – May 29, 2014 – APPROVED 12-04-2014**

Board Present: Karl Audenaerde, Susan Cohan, Michael Eder, Arthur Gaines, Debbie Gove, Nancy McDonald, Bob Skilton, Peter Waasdorp

Board Absent: Maureen Conte, Judy Yost

The meeting was held at the home of Peter Waasdorp and was called to order by Pres. Peter Waasdorp at 7:10 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Secretary's Report – Position vacant.**

The minutes of the 04/10/2014 meeting which were provided by Sue were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. Seconded and APPROVED.

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

The checking balance is \$846.06, the Money Market balance is \$10,056.24.

Karl recommended keeping annual dues for 2014-2015 at \$30. The Board agreed.

Karl suggested keeping donations for 2014-2015 the same as this year. We discussed two suggestions from the previous meeting – making a special donation to SPABSI for their contributions to the Sippewissett neighborhood, and making a special donation to the 300 Committee if the Kelly property is acquired. Motions were made and APPROVED

- a. to increase our regular donation to SPABSI while correspondingly decreasing the regular BBC donation, given that we also fund BBC's water quality testing in Sippewissett, and
- b. to send a thank you note to SPABSI indicating that we intend to recognize them at the annual meeting and inviting a representative to attend.

Arthur suggested we can delay recognition of the 300 Committee since the Kelly property has not been acquired at this point.

A motion was made and APPROVED to continue full funding of the BBC Baywatcher nutrient testing program in an amount up to \$900. ???? expects to see Tony Williams and will request a cost estimate for the upcoming summer.

**2014-2015 Planned Donations** total \$1400 and are as follows: \$350-300 Committee, \$300-BBC(Buzzards Bay Coalition), \$300-SPABSI(Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries), \$250-APCC(Association to Preserve Cape Cod), \$200-FACES(Falmouth Associations Concerned with Estuaries and Salt Ponds).

#### **Membership Report – Karl Audenaerde**

Sippewissett Association current membership is 131. As discussed last time, we need to do outreach to build up membership.

Debbie Gove accepted the position as Membership chairperson and will pull together the targeted mailing that has been discussed during the past couple of meetings. Peter or Debbie will verify Kathy Taylor will continue to do the annual new resident mailing.

Sue will confirm with Debbie that the Membership Form does not require any changes for 2014-2015.

### **Webmaster's Report**

An announcement about the Annual Meeting has been placed on the website.

Sue has set up a PayPal account for Sippewissett Association with Karl's contact information and is ready to replace the current 'Get Involved' page with a 'Become a Member' page and a 'Support Us' page which will accept credit card (through PayPal) and PayPal payment as well as current payment by check.

When Sue indicated the per-transaction cost of PayPal (\$.30 + 2.9% = \$1.17) Karl expressed concern about losing some income. Michael suggested researching alternative payment products. Sue was hesitant about this since the time to implement has already been incurred. (Michael had originally PayPal.) Standard dues fee of \$30 is being charged through the website; this can be revisited if we're losing too much money.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Recognition for Hartley and Rosemary Hoskins**

Hartley thanked us for the thought but preferred not to accept our offer of the plane ticket to Nantucket. Arthur determined they would enjoy going out to dinner. The Board will schedule a time to take Hartley and Rosemary out for dinner (Dutch treat for the Board).

#### **Plane Ticket to Nantucket**

Michael will try to sell the plane ticket on eBay and should accept the best offer he gets.

#### **Letter to Dr. Millicent Bell concerning treatment of Phragmites in Wood Neck Pond**

Debbie circulated the proposed letter to Dr. Millicent Bell prior to this meeting. Debbie had spoken with Toni Steinacker who had suggested that John Dowling, an associate of the late Eugene Bell, might be a good person to approach Millicent and her daughter with the letter. Merle suggested perhaps Joan Ruderman, or someone else at the MBL with similar expertise in safety of herbicides, might be a good person to convey the letter.

Merle plans to speak with Joan Ruderman and will get back to Debbie on how best to proceed.

#### **Coastal Access Related One-Pagers**

At the last meeting Arthur indicated he would start bringing one-pagers to this meeting.

##### **Sweeney – Corcoran settlement**

Arthur brought several documents concerning the above settlement.

- Fight to Defend SippOwisset Neighborhood – summary as of April 5, 2009 handed out to each Board member
- Committee of SippOwisset Homeowners final appeal letter of August 12, 2010 – handed out to each Board member

He also brought the 52 page settlement document and list of 105 donors who gave about \$200K, 10 of whom gave over \$5000 each.

All the provided documents serve to demonstrate the scope of what is involved when you take on these issues through the legal system.

##### **#10 Cape Codder**

Not covered during this meeting.

### **Coastal Access Committee's (CAC) Mission compared to Sippewissett Association's mission – proposals**

Sippewissett Association's 'Policy Statement on Access to the Water's Edge', approved June 28, 2003, was provided for review and discussion. It can be found at the bottom of this document.

Sippewissett Association's full mission statement can be found on the home page of the website <http://sippewissett.org> and is summarized at the top of this document. A statement by the Board about its role can be found in January 22, 2009 meeting minutes which can be found on the History page of the above website. The Board stated its role is primarily one of education and support of homeowners/landowners dealing with issues germane to our mission. 'The Board [felt] we should not ordinarily be involved in litigation.'

A lengthy discussion of the mission of the Coastal Access Committee as compared to that of the Sippewissett Association occurred, largely between Arthur and Michael.

Michael's position is that the CAC should be a group of people with their ears to the ground who can become aware of coastal issues in Sippewissett. CAC's role would be to raise an issue with the affected abutters and community, then support those parties if they choose to act on the issue.

An example discussed was encroachment by residents on neighborhood roads. Inadequate follow by the town's legal department after road approval has created many opportunities for disputed purpose/ownership.

Michael indicated he would prefer pursuing issues such as this using local process without involving lawyers. Arthur has strongly tried to make clear where action can lead in terms of time and expense if lawyers become involved, whether planned or not. Michael reiterated that you need to have confidence in the local process.

Peter recommended that the CAC have a dual mission - documenting historical actions as well as following pending issues. Michael suggested we ask for volunteers at the Annual Meeting who would work on tasks of the CAC as part of this committee. Peter and Michael will work out the wording.

### **Annual meeting planning**

The meeting will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cape Codder Community Room. Judy Yost will host.

Jessica Whritenour of the 300 Committee is confirmed as the speaker. Buzzards Bay Coalition will be invited to give a brief report. SPABSI will be invited to receive our acknowledgment for their ongoing contributions to the Sippewissett neighborhood.

### **Officer nominations**

There were no volunteers for the Presidency or for the Secretary's position.

The **2014-2015 slate of officers** will be:

President: Peter Waasdorp  
Vice-President: Arthur Gaines  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Karl Audenaerde

A volunteer for the position of Secretary will be solicited during the Annual Meeting. (According to the bylaws officers are supposed to be Board members so if we identify a volunteer Sue will resign to make room.)

If there is no volunteer then Board members will rotate the taking of minutes.

**Proposed Slate Board and Officers 2014-2015**

**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 2014**

Merle Mizell  
Deborah Gove  
Peter Waasdorp

**Continuing on the Board:           Year elected**

Karl Audenaerde	2012
Maureen Conte	2012
Arthur Gaines	2012
Nancy McDonald	2012
Susan Cohan	2013
Bob Skilton	2013
Michael Eder	2013
Judy Yost	2013

**Tasks**

Peter will

- orchestrate a postcard notice going out before annual meeting
- submit a press release, order chairs
- send out the list of tasks to everyone based on last year's list
- ask Judy Yost to open the room at 8:45 am

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Summer social**

Peter will ask Vicky Lowell about hosting August 3<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> choice) or August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Ideas for summer newsletter**

- oak trees – wasp infestations
- town's process for accepting roads and the associated legal process

**New resident mailing**

Peter will check with Kathy Taylor

**Buzzards Bay Coalition Swim (Debbie)**

A \$10 donation from each Board member would be wonderful...do it online.

**NEXT MEETING:   October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm at Karl's house.**

The meeting was adjourned by President Peter Waasdorp at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Susan Cohan  
Sippewissett Association

# The Sippewissett Association

## *Policy Statement on*

### Access to the Water's Edge

Whereas the community of Sippewissett consists of a mixture of private and public lands inter-connected by a network of rights-of-way, and,

Access to the water's edge is a valuable asset of the quality of life in Sippewissett, and

Access to the water's edge bears significantly on property values in Sippewissett, and

Access to the water's edge is a deeded right of many Sippewissett residents,

Therefore, it will be the standing policy of the Sippewissett Association to actively protect and enhance legal access to the coast, whether it take the form of:

Proper management of existing public lands at the coast, such as the Woodneck Beach at Little Sippewissett

Safe passage through existing community rights-of-way threatened by erosion, overgrowth of vegetation, or other natural processes

Removal of physical barriers such as fences, gates, planted vegetation or other obstacles placed by humans

Opposition to harassment of legal passers by abutting owners, such as by posting of unlawful signs barring access, verbal harassment, or other unfriendly verbal assault, or other hostile social signals obstructing access to the coast,

Other barriers to access to the water's edge.

Voted as a standing policy of the Sippewissett Association at its annual meeting this 28th day of June, 2003

Secretary, Sippewissett Association

President Sippewissett Association

Board of Directors, Sippewissett Association