

Sippewissett Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2014 – APPROVED

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 35 people in attendance including Board members.

Committee Reports

Review of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan

Copies of the minutes were reviewed by attendees. Sue reported that adjournment time should have been 11:42 AM, not 11:43 PM. A motion was made to accept the corrected minutes. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

Peter asked if any attendees would be interested in taking over the position of Secretary. There were no volunteers.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

Karl reported balances as of 01/01/2014 as \$915.86 in Checking, \$10,054.59 in Money Market. The FY2014 budget shows a projected \$950 surplus assuming membership of 140. During the budget discussion Clinton Miner, a resident of the Cape Codder, indicated he has access to chairs which can be borrowed in the future to save rental expense.

A motion was made to approve dues of \$30 for membership year 2014-2015. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

A motion was made to approve donations of \$1,400 (\$300 CBB, \$350 300 Committee, \$250 APCC, \$200 FACES (recently renamed Falmouth Water Stewards), \$300 SPABSI). Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

Membership report – Debbie Gove

Membership this year is 131, down slightly from 138.

Kathy Taylor works to build membership by doing a new-resident mailing each year. Debbie Gove, who is the new membership chairperson, will target non-member existing residents. She requested that members speak with their neighbors about SA's activities and mission or that they provide her with names of potential members and she will contact them.

Website Update – Susan Cohan

Our website is <http://sippewissett.org> Last summer this website was moved to a new development platform which delivers a more modern user interface, enhanced development tools, and an end-user mobile version without requiring additional development.

We are close to making online membership signup/ renewal and dues payment available. Watch for new menu items: 'Become a Member' and 'Support Us'. You will be able to use your personal PayPal account or your credit card (no PayPal acct required) to pay dues and/or make a contribution to the water quality testing program.

Board and Officers Election – Peter Waasdorp

Peter reviewed the proposed slate. He then discussed the fact that a number of members of the current Board have been serving for many years. He asked if anyone would be interested in joining the Board.

Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar volunteered. A check of the bylaws showed the Board is supposed to have an odd number of members with a maximum size of 13; adding Geraldine would make 12 members. Sylvia Vatuk then volunteered for the Board.

The election of Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar and Sylvia Vatuk for a three year term was moved. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

The election of current Board members Merle Mizell, Debbie Gove and Peter Waasdorp for an additional three year term was moved. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

The election of the proposed slate of officers (listed at bottom) for a one year term was moved. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously. See below for the list of the elected 2014-2015 Board members and Officers.

Winter and Summer Socials – Peter Waasdorp

Last summer's social at the home of Ken Foreman and Ann Giblin was enjoyed by all. The past winter's social was held at the West Falmouth Library at which time Arthur Gaines spoke about William Cooper's memoir 'Atlantis Stories'. We had the typical level of attendance for winter socials (approximately 25); those attending had a pleasant time.

The Summer Social will be held Sunday August 10, 2014 at the home of Vicki and "Pete" Lowell, 188 Sippewissett Rd., 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Baywatchers Update – Maureen Conte

The Baywatchers water testing program has been operating for more than 10 years. This summer Gunning Point Pond and Flume Pond testing will have only nutrient testing due to expected side-effects of the Phragmites treatment. Full testing will be resumed once treatments are complete. Wood Neck [aka Little Sippewissett Marsh] testing will undergo full testing as usual.

Plover Update – Nancy McDonald

In April Sippewissett's banded plover was observed at Wood Neck. Unfortunately crows destroyed her nest. This week she was discovered at Trunk River near the bike path. The nest contains four eggs. The date the eggs were laid is unknown; incubation requires 28 days.

Coastal Access Committee Update – Arthur Gaines

The Coastal Access Committee (CAC) was established in 2003 to address concerns about threats to coastal access and to Beebe Woods. With regard to coastal access the CAC's purview is the coastline from Wood Neck to Quissett Harbor. Twenty-three access points have been identified along this coastline. Each access point is controlled by one or more of the following legal instruments: Colonial ordinance, Chapter 91, Town ownership, Subdivision plan, and Private subscription.

Arthur reviewed the major access points and identified CAC contacts for some.

Wood Neck – Toni Steinacker

Beccles – Peter Waasdorp

SippOwisset -

North (Cape Codder) – Merle Mizell

The north-side right of way is a current issue.

Mid (Gunning Point)

Arthur gave an overview of the Pond Lot settlement. He then asked Hartley Hoskins to read a statement summarizing the original common areas issues that transpired with the SippOwisset shore parcel. Hartley described development of the plan to address these issues and the actions taken which eventually led to the acquisition of the Pond Lot and Shore Lot by SPABSI.

Hartley recommended sending a letter to Langley C. Keyes thanking him for his important part in making the settlement possible. A motion was so made. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously. Arthur volunteered to draft the letter.

Flume Pond – owned by The 300 Committee

Racing Beach – private access and deeded access

Gray Lane – private access

Quissett - Carey Lane – private access

Quissett - QuamQuissett – member only

Quissett – Limited parking spaces for public access at the harbor

Gunning Point Beach Lot/ROW Update – Michael Eder

Michael reviewed the access status of the southern part of the Gunning Point shore.

He spoke of the Beach Lot settlement, indicating that he and SPABSI worked extensively with the town getting it to acknowledge SPABSI's ownership of the common areas and getting it to reflect this information on town maps.

Michael stated his belief that SA should contribute \$1000 to SPABSI in recognition of and thanks for the time and money they invested in this project. A motion to donate \$1000 to SPABSI was made. Seconded.

Karl indicated spending this amount would bring SA balances below the levels he prefers to maintain. An amendment was made to contribute \$500 to SPABSI. Seconded. Additional discussion followed.

The vote on the amendment **FAILED**. Not Unanimous.
The vote on the initial motion **PASSED**. Not Unanimous.

Subcommittee to advise residents/groups – Peter Waasdorp

Peter requested volunteers interested in joining a subcommittee whose job it will be to serve as a resource for residents and groups in Sippewissett looking for information about coastal access concerns or advise about addressing identified issues. There were no volunteers.

Other Business

Buzzards Bay Coalition Update – Marc Belanger, VP Development

Flume Pond and Gunning Pond are in the second year of their Phragmites treatment plans. Treatment now is done on just small areas where the Phragmites reappears.

BBC is working on reducing nitrogen pollution in the watershed and waterways. On this side of the Bay they are involved in the West Falmouth Harbor cleanup.

They are about to complete acquisition of a 400 acre parcel right on the Bay as part of their conservation activities.

BBC maintains an office in Woods Hole which is open 9-5 daily during the summer.

Debbie Gove is participating in the upcoming Buzzards Bay Swim. Karl Audenaerde plans to participate in the Watershed Ride in October. Both are raising funds for BBC.

Guest Speakers: 11 AM - Jessica Erickson Whritenour, Administrator

**Leonard Johnson, President
The 300 Committee**

Leonard Johnson

The 300 Committee was started in 1985. It now has 2300 acres permanently protected in Falmouth. It works in cooperation with the town to acquire land for protection; the ownership and management arrangement varies parcel by parcel.

23% of Falmouth's land is now permanently preserved open space. \$80 million has been spent to accomplish this.

The website 300committee.org lists all of the parcels for which The 300 Committee is the steward. Trail maps are available.

When starting a project the Committee prefers to identify a cornerstone parcel then to spread out from there, preserving as much land mass as possible. This is the best approach for preserving natural environments.

Jessica Erickson Whritenour

Jessica reviewed the current projects of The 300 Committee.

- West Falmouth Coastal Project (Shearer/Hills Conservation Restriction)
This is a 10.2 acre parcel closing tomorrow. It will have a Conservation Restriction but part of it will still be privately owned and not open to the public.
- Teaticket Park
\$2.2 million was raised from multiple sources to purchase this parcel. Purchase of the parcel protects fresh water resources that feed into Little Pond and also prevents the potential development of 7 houses, a multi-story office building and 52 parking spaces. Implementation of plans for the parcel is a cooperative effort between volunteers and paid workers. The second phase will be restoration of the wetland and the addition of plantings this fall.
- Two Ponds Conservation Area (formerly the golf course next to Atria Woodbriar)
This parcel includes wetlands as well as an Atlantic white cedar swamp. Atria has paid for handicapped facilities which are complete. It also provided \$25k for additional stewardship. More trails are under development.

The 300 Committee is looking for a new Stewardship Coordinator and land steward volunteers are always needed. Jessica strongly encouraged everyone to visit the parcels and take a hike!

In response to a question, Jessica indicated that The 300 Committee accepts appreciated property for resale. This helps generate funds for other acquisitions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan
Sippewissett Association

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
Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar (new)
Sylvia Vatak (new)

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