

Sippewissett Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2015 – APPROVED 06/25/2016

The annual meeting was held at the Cape Codder Clubhouse and was called to order at 10:01 A.M. by Pres. Peter Waasdorp. There were approximately 55 people in attendance including Board members.

Committee Reports

Review of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan

Copies of the minutes were reviewed by attendees. Sue reported two minor corrections which were found since the minutes were printed. A motion was made to accept the corrected minutes. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

Membership Report - Karl Audenaerde for Debbie Gove

Sippewissett Association (SA) had 137 paid members at the end of the 2014 membership year. Karl read names of members who, according to his records, had paid twice during 2014 and stated they are considered paid up for 2015-2016.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde

Balances: Checking \$691.76, Money Market \$11,059.30 as of 01/01/15.

Budget: Karl reviewed the 2015 Treasurer's Report. He stated that some changes to the 2015 budget may be necessary depending on the impact of SA's special dues offer in exchange for a 300 Committee (T3C) donation in support of the Kelly Land Acquisition.

Approval of dues: A motion was made to approve dues of \$30 for membership year 2015-2016. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of donations: A motion was made to approve donations of \$1,400 (\$300 Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC), \$350 The 300 Committee (T3C), \$250 Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC), \$200 Falmouth Water Stewards (FWS, previously FACES), and \$300 Salt Pond Area Bird Sanctuaries Inc (SPABSI)).

Michael Eder moved to table this motion until after the Kelly donation discussion. Seconded. **PASSED** Unanimously.

Following the '300 Committee/Kelly purchase/special dues offer' discussion (see below) Michael moved to untable the motion to approve donations of \$1,400. Seconded and **PASSED** unanimously. The original motion, itself, was then seconded and **PASSED** unanimously.

A motion was made that a donation of \$60 or more to T3C (with Sippewissett Association as the indicated source) should entitle the donor to a free one year SA membership, this year only. Seconded. **PASSED**.

300 Committee/Kelly purchase/special dues offer – Leonard Johnson, President, The 300 Committee and Vicki Lowell, Board Member, The 300 Committee

Leonard Johnson began by saying that Arthur Gaines originally brought the Kelly property on Sippewissett Rd. to the attention of T3C. There are two parcels, one buildable and one not. Purchase of the buildable lot is the key link to creating 500 contiguous acres of open space. T3C has signed a P&S with the Kelly family under which \$235,000 will be paid for the ½ acre buildable lot; the non-buildable 2.5 acre lot is being given to the T3C by the Kelly family. Conservation restrictions will be placed on both parcels by the T3C.

T3C expects to put in 4 parking spots and will try to bring a trail from Beebe Woods as close to the trail in the Flume Pond Conservation area as possible. They understand Sippewissett Rd. can be dangerous for walkers and will work with the town to establish a safe crossing point. It was noted that there is no shoreline access to Flume Pond from the trails and also that the T3C does not own the beach on the Buzzards Bay side of Flume Pond; ownership of that beach was unknown.

In addition to already committed grants T3C needs to raise an additional \$65K; \$15K in additional grants have been applied for plus an additional 50K is needed from private sources.

Vicki Lowell commented that George Kelly had been a member of the Conservation Committee and that it was fitting that his property be used for conservation. Leonard stated the new conservation area will be named for the Kelly family.

Maureen Conte pointed out that by conserving the Kelly land an important wildlife crossing from the highlands to the shore will be preserved.

Arthur Gaines discussed a special SA dues offer for 2015-2016 to support The 300 committee. You can continue to pay your \$30 dues to SA. However, the preferred way this year is to donate \$60 or more to The 300 Committee. By so doing you will support the acquisition of the Kelly land, you will get a tax deduction and you will receive a free 2015-2016 SA membership. Leonard Johnson then announced that your donation will also include a 2015-2016 T3C free membership.

Website Update – Susan Cohan

Sue reported that online membership signup/ renewal and dues payment have been adjusted to allow for the T3C Kelly land acquisition special dues offer.

The 'Become A Member' page and the 'Support Us' pages on <http://sippewissett.org> have information that you need to complete your membership signup/renewal.

There is also a new Membership Form for 2015-2016.

Board and Officers Election – Peter Waasdorp

Peter thanked Mary Fran Buckley for her continued work publishing our newsletter and Nancy McDonald as she retires from the Board.

Peter reviewed the proposed slate listed at the bottom of this document.

The election of board members for a 3 year term was moved. Seconded and **PASSED**.

The election of officers for a 1 year term was moved. Seconded and **PASSED**.

Comments from Arthur Gaines, President for 2015-2016

Arthur spoke of 'Sippewissett' as being loosely defined as an area running from the Fieldcrest Farm on Palmer Ave. to Quissett Harbor and including both sides of Sippewissett Rd. out to Woods Hole Rd. The two largest natural features in this area are Buzzards Bay and the Beebe Woods. SA is concerned with preserving the natural quality of these features as well as maintaining public access to both.

The Sippewissett Association can be thought of as a 'congress of housing centers' - examples include SippOwisset, Racing Beach, Sippewissett Place. These centers share a number of important issues, some of which are loss of sand on the beaches, breaching of the beaches, uncertainty concerning ownership of roads, uncertainty concerning who is responsible for maintenance of roads, and speeding problems on Sippewissett Rd.

'Atlantis Stories' - Memoirs of Bill Cooper and his years aboard the Atlantis – Jennifer Gaines

A book of great local and historical interest, this book has been produced by the Woods Hole Historical Museum. It was edited by Arthur Gaines who knew Bill Cooper for many years. There were copies available at the meeting; they are also available at the museum for \$40.

Winter and Summer Socials – Peter Waasdorp

Due to inclement weather this winter there was no winter social. Instead, a testimonial dinner was held for Hartley and Rosemary Hoskins to acknowledge their contributions to the community. The summer social will be held at Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar's during the first weekend of August – time to be announced.

Access Action Committee Update – Michael Eder

The Access Action Committee (AAC) meets only in the summer when members are in residence. This summer's meeting is being scheduled.

An issue under review is continued right of access to the section of Langley Rd. which is the Sippowissett neighborhood's access to the beach. The Committee believes the Rothmans' landscaping has encroached on this road. Peter Waasdorp reported that he had discussed this with Mrs. Rothman. She and her husband have asserted ownership of this section of Langley Rd. which the Committee believes is owned by SPABSI. The Rothmans are willing to make certain adjustments to the landscaping to keep access to the beach open but do not intend to relinquish their ownership claim.

Another issue under review is that Cape Codder Rd. is currently terminated by a grove of bamboo which blocks access to a town-owned road. The abutting neighbor's lawyer claims her client owns that portion of the road. This issue is an example of a larger issue, that the town is not enforcing its laws. The town tends to push issues off to the legal process. In this case Peter has checked with engineering and the town says the road is absolutely town-owned. Peter has asked for a 'next action' from town and has received no answer.

Other Business

Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) Update/Baywatchers – Rachel Jakuba, BBC Science Director; and Maureen Conte

Rachel thanked SA for supporting the Baywatchers monitoring program. BBC has been working with WHOI on modeling their large volume of collected data. One observation has been that that Bay temperatures are increasing. They are finding at higher temperatures for a given amount of nitrogen there is more algae; temperature seems to be an important factor in water quality.

BBC is offering subsidies to West Falmouth Harbor residents who take action that supports nitrogen treatment.

Baywatchers (Maureen) - Water quality testing is done at Wood Neck, Gunning Point, and Flume ponds. Gunning Point has had phragmites treatment; testing is expected to show changes to the environment of the pond. SA has supported Baywatchers by paying for nutrient monitoring. Baywatchers needs volunteers.

Plovers - Nancy McDonald and Karl Audenaerde

A banded female appeared this spring near Trunk River. Of 4 eggs found 3 hatched. Two remain and are about to fledge. The mother left 2 weeks after chicks hatched.

A second nest was found in an undesirable location. Of 4 eggs found all hatched. Mass Audubon monitors have been working to keep the plovers safe.

Hartley Hoskins

Man-made structures have blocked access to the shore and have interrupted flow of sand along the shore, negatively impacting the amount of sand on beaches.

Hartley showed a chart of groins and rip rap along the Gunning Point coastline. There are 12 structures, 10 of which have been built since 1968. Since the 1960's there has been a significant reduction in sand on the beach.

Adjournment

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am at which time we moved outside for the 'Birds of Prey' presentation.

Guest Speaker: Marla Isaac and feathered friends – ‘Birds of Prey’

A very informative presentation was given by Marla Isaac of New England Reptile & Raptor Exhibits. Live raptors displayed included several owls, a hawk and a vulture.

Submitted by:
Susan Cohan
Sippewissett Association

Proposed Slate

Board and Officers 2015-2016

Officers – (For a 1 year term)

President – Arthur Gaines, Vice President – Maureen Conte,
Treasurer - Karl Audenaerde, Secretary – vacant

For a 3 year term on the Board effective 2015

Karl Audenaerde	2015
Maureen Conte	2015
Arthur Gaines	2015
Vacant	2015

Continuing on the Board: Year elected

Susan Cohan	2013
Michael Eder	2013
Bob Skilton	2013
Judy Yost	2013

Deborah Gove	2014
Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar	2014
Merle Mizell	2014
Sylvia Vatuk	2014
Peter Waasdorp	2014

Retiring from Board

Nancy McDonald	2012
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