

**Sippewissett Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2016 - APPROVED**

The annual meeting was held at the Hermann Room in the Falmouth Public Library and was called to order at 10:00 by President Arthur Gaines. Approximately 45 people were in attendance including board members.

**Committee Reports**

**Review of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Cohan**

Copies of the minutes were available for review by attendees. There was no discussion. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously.

**Membership Report - Karl Audenaerde for Debbie Gove**

There were 114 paid members for 2015-2016 including 64 who paid dues to SA and 50 whose membership came as a benefit of their donation of at least \$60 to The 300 Committee in support of the Kelly parcel purchase. Membership was down from 137 members the previous year, possibly due to some administrative confusion associated with T3C/SA tracking.

**Treasurer's Report – Karl Audenaerde**

Balances as of 01/01/16: Checking \$ 701.53, Money Market \$9,564.49.

Budget: Karl reviewed the 2015 Treasurer's Report. FY 2016 started with a \$10,266.02 total balance. Projected expenses are \$300 greater than projected income based on continuation of dues at the \$30 level. Expenses include proposed donations of \$300 to Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC), \$250 to Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod (APCC), \$200 to Falmouth Water Stewards (FWS), and \$300 to Salt Pond Area Bird Sanctuaries Inc (SPABSI). A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded. **PASSED** unanimously. (Note: A donation to The 300 Committee (T3C) was omitted this year, given our efforts on behalf of the Kelly parcel purchase.)

**Website Update – Susan Cohan**

The Summer 2016 newsletter can be found on the website as well as links to articles in that newsletter associated with SA's ongoing activities. Sue reminded attendees that links to websites of organizations to which SA donates as well as to other groups whose missions impact the Sippewissett area can be readily accessed on the Links of Interest webpage at <http://sippewissett.org>.

**Amendment of By-Laws**

Arthur reported that it has been difficult getting a quorum at meetings this year and he has been considering a change to the by-laws. Several suggestions were made which potentially address the problem without a by-law change: 1. electronic participation, for example use of FaceTime, Skype, or GoToMeeting (Maureen has a subscription), 2. Use of the library's conferencing facilities, 3. Holding one or more meetings during the summer when more Board members are in Falmouth. Suggested times were just before the annual meeting and/or near the time of the summer social.

**Board and Officers Election – Arthur Gaines**

Arthur reviewed the proposed slate of Board members listed at the bottom of this document. A motion was made to elect the slate (officers for 1 year and board members for 3 years starting in 2016). Seconded and **PASSED**.

**Winter and Summer Socials – Arthur Gaines**

The winter social was held at the Cape Codder club house. It was a pleasant get-together. The summer social will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday August 6, 2016 at the home of Ken Foreman and Anne Giblin, 108 Sippewissett Rd.. There will be oysters!

### **Access Action Committee Update**

There are several areas on Gunning Point where owners are encroaching on public roads and rights of way.

#### **Beach Road (Langley Road) – Carolyn Eberhard**

Carolyn Eberhard reported specifically on the Beach Road problem. There has been encroachment into the road by the Rothmans, owners of the property at 32 Langley Rd. Carolyn noted that there is no problem with beach access *at this time*.

Several years ago as part of the Sweeney settlement roads on Gunning Point were taken over by SPABSI. Since that time fencing, a pool building and landscaping including an irrigation system have been added at 32 Langley Rd., all of which extend over the bounds into Langley Rd. At a particular point twenty-two feet of the road's forty foot width is now occupied by landscaping.

The Hoskins and Eberhards along with Geraldine Klein-Robbenhaar and Sylvia Vatuk recently sponsored a survey (including placement of markers) of the Gunning Point roads and markers; this survey has been entered at the Registry of Deeds. It is, effectively, a re-recording of bounds originally set up in 1897.

Carolyn displayed photos showing markers with the encroachments of concern. The conclusion of the sponsors is that 1. There is serious encroachment in the form of large trees, an irrigation system, and large structures in the road, and 2. The community can improve the road as desired.

Further action is foreseen. The nature of that action will be reviewed with the Action Access Committee (AAC). A determination will be made by the SA Board whether and in what fashion to support any planned action.

As an initial action, a motion was made that a letter from the AAC and SA be sent to the Rothmans requesting that all encroaching structures and plantings (to be listed) be removed from the road to within the property line. Copies are to be sent to the Building Dept. and Board of Selectmen. Seconded. **PASSED** with one nay.

#### **Report on Pond Lot: Conservation Restrictions – Arthur Gaines**

As part of the Sweeney settlement SPABSI became owner of the Gunning Point Pond and the area around it while T3C received the conservation restriction on this property. During T3C's annual status review they found violations in the form of chairs and boats on the beach and vegetation. Betsy Gladfelter spoke about the usual enforcement process. T3C notifies the town's Department of Marine and Environmental Services which places an orange sticker on each violating item indicating that after a specified number of days the item will be removed. It was noted that there is also a town ordinance prohibiting placement of boats, chairs, etc. on coastal vegetation. During discussion two suggestions were made: 1. that someone could get stickers and place a pre-enforcement message on the violating objects informing owners of their violation and impending town enforcement, and 2. that the community might investigate a storage rack to serve the purpose.

### **Reports and Other Business**

#### **Kelly Land Acquisition – Jo Ann Muramoto (T3C)**

The Kelly parcel includes a half acre lot just north of 318 Sippewissett Rd. and 2.6 non-buildable acres of 318 Sippewissett Rd. This parcel connects Sippewissett Rd. to Beebe Woods and also Beebe Woods to the Flume Pond parcel. Total funding required to purchase the parcel was \$235,000. SA was instrumental in raising \$40K of this amount. Recently the state's Conservation Partnership made \$85,000 available which completes the purchase funding and defrays certain engineering plans and legal fees. Planning for a four space unpaved parking lot on Sippewissett Rd. will begin soon.

#### **Vehicular Noise – Peter Waasdorp**

Peter indicated that vehicular noise is an issue all over town and that a number of neighborhood associations are asking the police to begin actively enforcing noise ordinances. He requested that SA do the same. A motion was made to ask the Board of Selectmen and the Town Meeting, if necessary, to immediately ask the Falmouth Police to enforce vehicular noise ordinances by issuing citations. Seconded. **PASSED**.

### **Vehicular Speeding and Motorcycle Antics – Arthur Gaines**

Speeding is a continuing and increasing problem on Sippewissett Rd.. Arthur listed several actions that could be taken to address the problem, two of which have already been tried without notable success.

Previously tried:

- obeying the speed limit, in so doing slowing down following vehicles
- requesting speed traps

Additional ideas:

- posting more speed signs and fixing ones that exist
- advanced technology
- radar monitoring with a camera and a data logger

Arthur recommended radar monitoring with speed and license plate logging. Cost would be in the range of \$6K. This system could be expandable to noise level and license plate logging.

Interestingly, a speed control device was recently installed on Quissett Rd. but is now inactive because appropriate permitting was not obtained.

### **Plovers - Karl Audenaerde**

In 2011 a banded female plover nested on Wood Neck beach. When it was found that she had wintered in the Bahamas she became known as 'Bahama Mama'. Bahama Mama has returned to Falmouth each summer since. In 2015 she nested near the Trunk River. Her first nest that year was unsuccessful but the second did succeed thanks in part to the large amount of time spent by Karl and his wife, Greta, protecting them. This year she is again at Trunk River. Two of the babies have disappeared; the third should be fledging this weekend.

### **Roadside Trash Report – Peter Waasdorp**

Much trash was found along Sippewissett Rd. this year including substantial numbers of beer cans and nip bottles. This is a concern for drivers and walkers. Thank you to Nancy McDonald and the spring cleanup volunteers.

### **Water Monitoring Program – Maureen Conte**

The Baywatcher program is organized and run by Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC). SA does the monitoring at Gunning Point Pond and Little Sippewissett marsh. Let Maureen know if you're interested in volunteering.

Maureen also spoke Sea Turtles in Buzzards Bay. There are four types (Kemp's Ridley, loggerhead, leatherback, and green), all of which are endangered and protected. The Kemp's Ridley is the most endangered turtle species in the world.

Report it if you find a sea turtle in trouble by calling 1-888-SEA-TURT which is MA Audubon's Sea Turtle Hotline. Don't move the turtle. For sighting only go to [seaturtlesightings.org](http://seaturtlesightings.org) where information about your sighting can be recorded.

Between November and January sea turtles sometimes get stranded in Buzzards Bay, then become cold stunned. 90% of these are Kemp's Ridley turtles. Report them ASAP. Time is critical to their survival!

## **New Business**

### **Improved internet and cell phone connectivity – Maren Plueddemann**

**Steve Johnston, Art Gaylord – OpenCape**

**OpenCape is a non-profit corporation that has built a** fiber-optic network for the Cape and other southeastern Massachusetts communities. They received \$49 million in grants to install 350 miles of fiber-optic cable deployed on 12,000 poles. They also have implemented a backhaul microwave network and a data center to use for backups.

OpenCape currently provides high speed hookups to town government, schools, and businesses all over the Cape. They are now preparing to bring their service to neighborhoods. It is their intention to deliver their services using established conduits, trenching or micro-trenching.

On their website [Opencape.crowdfiber.com](http://Opencape.crowdfiber.com) you can indicate whether you are or are not interested in bringing fiber to your neighborhood. They will use this information in their planning as they identify initial target neighborhoods.

As the 'internet of things' - where all devices are connected to the internet – becomes a reality high capacity service will become more important.

Financing options have yet to be worked out. Steve suggested towns may decide they need a plan to fund the rollout of fiber neighborhood by neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.

**Submitted by:**

**Susan Cohan  
Sippewissett Association**

**Sippewissett Association - Slate approved at today's meeting  
Board and Officers 2016-2017**

**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 2016**

Michael Eder	2016
Bob Skilton	2016
John Stegeman	2016
Judy Yost	2016

**Continuing on the Board:      Year elected**

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

Karl Audenaerde	2015
Maureen Conte	2015
Arthur Gaines	2015

**Retiring from Board**

Susan Cohan	2013
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