

Eastham Forum Minutes

Held at 3PM, March 19, 2009

Eastham Police Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM

Members in attendance were:

Peter Markunas, who chaired the meeting
Jerry Gibson
Vivien Cook
Al Sette
Herbert France
Helen Smith
Loretta Neilsen
Jeannie Cole
Vida DeMale

Bob Mumford was introduced as a guest who will be sitting in during the meeting. Bob is a permanent resident of Eastham and served as an Eastham Selectman.

Also re-introduced was Ron Edson, who attended the February 19th meeting, and it was announced that he has gathered the background material from former Director and Editor of the Forum News, Bob Gardner, and that he has agreed to serve as the new Editor of the Forum News.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the February 19th 2009 meeting were not available as Mary (Suzzanna) Goemaat, the Secretary, was unavailable to attend this month's meeting. Therefore, there was no Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Al Sette provided the Board with the Treasurer's Report for March. Al mentioned that there is a coming CD maturity, and asked if any significant expenses were anticipated that would require him to cash in the CD. Excepting the possible advertisement of a Candidates Night, and publication of a Forum News prior to Town Meeting, no significant expenses were anticipated. It was discussed that those expenses could be covered with the Forum's liquid cash availability.

The Treasurer also reminded the Board Members that Annual Dues for 2009 are due, and provided the Board Members with their Dues Forms.

Presentation by Sandy Bayne, of the Eastham Water Management Committee

Sandy Bayne and Steve Wasby of the Water Management Committee were in attendance to answer questions to Sandy's presentation to the Board of a planned Article to be presented before the Town Meeting Scheduled for May 4th, 2009.

Summary of Presentation:

Sandy handed out copies of the proposed Article, that is still being worked upon.

Basically, the Article, which will be presented by the Selectmen, involves a Fund Commitment of \$3.1 Million dollars in order to conduct a detailed study, evaluation and analysis of Public Water Supply availability and feasibility for the Town. This article does not include any construction costs, but will include, what Sandy described as Phase I services, as outlined to the Selectman. The services include:

Relating to potential Eastham Sites:

- Field Studies/Evaluation
- DEP Site Screening Examination
- Pumping Tests
- Source Data Analysis/Final Report
- DEP/MEPA/CCC Reviews and Permitting

Relating to Utilizing Orleans Supply:

- Supply Line Configuration
- Maximum Volume Determination
- Infrastructure Requirements

The purpose of this Selectman's Article is to evaluate all public water supply options available to the Town so that the Town can make an informed decision for source and development directions. The two most promising sites are the "Ocean Beach" parcel, nestled between Nauset Road and the Ocean, shown as Area "H", and the Town owned former "wood lots", a triangular piece of land at the northern end of Town, shown on a plan provided by Ms. Bayne as Area "G". Another option would be to obtain permits to increase the pumping at the Nauset Regional High School well from approximately 500,000 gal per day to 1,000,000 gal per day.

Ms. Bayne also discussed the Waste Treatment situation in the Town, which was part of an Article previously presented and defeated at Town Meeting. The Town's most pressing needs for Waste Treatment are the Nauset Harbor Recharge Zone, Herring River Recharge Zone, the Rock Harbor Recharge Zone and the Boat Meadow Recharge Zone. These particular areas are most critical because the ground water flow is directly into estuaries, which have already shown adverse signs of Nitrate overload. Interestingly enough, Ms. Baynes indicated that the densely populated Cape Cod Recharge Zone, which pretty much covers the area between Route 6 and the Bay from First Encounter Beach to South Sunken Meadow Beach, discharge directly into the open waters of Cape Cod Bay, and thus has not shown any adverse impacts, as of yet.

Mr. Wasby followed up the presentation with further insights into the potential complexity of this proposed Article. He informed the Board that Tom Johnson, a Town Resident, has obtained sufficient signatures for a citizen initiated Article for a Town Commitment of \$4.1, or so, Million Dollars that is focused only on utilization of the Orleans Water Supply for the Town. Neither he, nor Ms. Bayne could give any details of proposed Article, but it supposedly includes permitting and construction. It is unknown exactly what extent of construction is supposedly included in that Article.

The Town Article will be heard at the early stages of Town Meeting, since it is a Selectman's Article. The Johnson Article will be heard towards the end of Town Meeting, since it is a Citizen's Article.

After the presentation, Ms. Baynes and Mr. Wasby left the meeting allowing for the Directors to discuss the presentation and Article(s) on this very important matter.

Directors' Discussion on the Water Articles

The general discussion seemed to agree that full information to the Town would best serve the Town in the Long Run. However, since the Board had no detailed information on the Johnson Article, the Board felt it unwise to consider an opinion until the Board had the opportunity for Mr. Johnson to address the Board. The Board did recognize that there may be some merit to Mr. Johnson's Article, for expediency in providing clean, safe water to the "trouble spots" in Eastham, e.g., the Town Landfill area and Schoolhouse Road areas.

Because of the lack of information on the Johnson Article, the Board motioned and approved to contact Mr. Johnson and request a presentation at the Eastham Forum's April 16th monthly meeting. The Board will then discuss both Articles and determine a position on the issues.

It was agreed that this would allow sufficient time for publishing and disseminating information to the Town thru the Eastham Forum Newsletter and the Eastham Forum Website, prior to Town Meeting.

New Business

Appointment of Ron Edson as Editor of the Forum Newsletter and Membership to the Board of Directors
Since Ron has accepted the responsibility of the Editor, and since that position is a Director, the Board moved and unanimously approved his appointment onto the Board to replace the vacant position left by former Editor, Bob Gardner.

Immediately following this vote Bob Mumford was nominated to fill one of the two remaining vacant positions on the Board. Bob accepted the nomination, and the Board voted unanimously to approve him as a Director.

Nominating Committee

The Board briefly discussed the need to establish a Nominating Committee for the Nomination and Approval of Officers for the next Annual Membership meeting. Since time was running short by this time, this matter was tabled until the April Directors Meeting.

Email Communication

The Board discussed the benefits of regular information being provided thru the internet emails. However, there was concern that when matters involve "decisions", that they best be done in a meeting format. This led to the discussion of the next Agenda Topic, the Eastham Forum Website.

Eastham Forum Website

The current website, according to previous comments by Walter Sebastian, is limited in storage capacity, and doesn't receive many "hits". The decisions discussed in the previous agenda items particularly were involved in website postings. It was discussed and agreed that the site needs updating, and updating with greater capacity so that more items can be posted on the site. Pete Markunas indicated that he just enrolled in a site with near unlimited storage, can host websites, etc. He proposed that he work with Walter and develop a new "look" to the website and attempt to post the site in that new area. The members so motioned and approved the website re-development.

Along the lines of the last two agenda items, there was a general consensus that there needs to be a small committee willing to create articles of interest for the website, perform peer reviews, and promote frequent informational postings on the website. The membership agreed to establish such a committee with those responsibilities and the members would include Pete Markunas, Al Sette, Ron Edson and Bob Mumford. These four individuals would be responsible for the content of the website postings.

Old Business

Vacant Board Position

The Board was reminded that there still is one vacant position on the Board of Directors to fill. The Board was encouraged to help search out a qualified, energetic citizen of Eastham who would be willing to be a member of the Board.

Interim President

The meeting was running late, and not enough time was available to fully discuss a replacement for Jerry Gibson as President of the Board. The Board agreed to table this discussion for the April Meeting, and decided that Pete Markunas would again chair that meeting.

By-Laws Update

Briefly discussed was the need of a small sub-committee of interested and by-law knowledgeable Directors to review and provide recommended updates to the by-laws for the Boards approval. This matter was tabled for the April Meeting.

Other Business

The Acting Police Chief visited the Board and extended his full welcome for our committee to utilize the Police Station's Conference Room in the future. Acting Chief Roderick made it clear that parking can be aside of the building or in the rear. He said that he had some abandoned vehicles re-located, and asked his staff to be helpful and cooperative.

The time and day of the regular monthly meetings were brought up as possibly needing a revisit, to accommodate various Members' schedules. This will be discussed at the April meeting, but hopefully coordinated and resolved before that time.

The March Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Markunas, Acting on behalf of the Secretary