

Eastham Forum Directors Meeting Minutes
3 P.M. June 17 2009
Eastham Police Department Conference Room

The meeting was convened at 3:00 P.M. by acting President Peter Markunas

Forum directors in attendance:

Jerry Gibson, Jeanne Cole, Loretta Neilsen, Vivien Cook, Helen Smith, Bob Mumford, Ron Edson, Peter Markunas, presiding

Judy Cannon, Proprietor of the Town Crier Motel and former member of the Eastham Chamber of Commerce was voted in as a new Director of the Eastham Forum. She can be contacted at 508 255-4000 and by e-mail at Judy@TownCrierMotel.com

Ron Edson, editor of the Eastham Forum Newsletter accepted the position of Secretary

Treasurer's Report: Al Sette is recuperating from a hip replacement procedure and could not attend today's meeting

Presentation of The Eastham Forum Annual Scholarship:

Nauset Regional High School graduate, Mary Shafer, was this year's recipient of our scholarship fund. Ms. Shafer arrived to receive the award and all of our congratulations and best wishes. She plans to attend college and become an elementary school teacher.

Sub-Committee Assignments:

- By-Laws Committee:

It has been suggested that the by-laws be reviewed and possibly amended. Committee members are Loretta, Judy, Jeanne, Bob and Peter

- Peer Review Committee:

This committee is being formed to review and edit materials to be included on our newly revised web-site. Committee members are Al, Bob, Ron and Peter

- Public Awareness Committee:

A discussion ensued regarding Peter's suggestion that the Forum pro-actively provide information on our web-site to "lead the way" regarding critical Town matters rather than play "catch-up." Loretta suggested that volunteers are needed to find pertinent information regarding issues such as municipal water, wastewater management, zoning and other items of importance to Eastham taxpayers. She also suggested and it was agreed that a Forum director be included as chairperson on this and other committees. Loretta suggested to go through the membership list to request volunteers for the Public Awareness Sub-Committee.

- Windmill Weekend:

Sandy Bayne has been asked to provide materials for WW regarding local water issues and the Pond Studies. Peter has contacted the Cape Cod Commission to provide materials on Beach Erosion. We should provide a mention celebrating Sandy's efforts in organizing volunteers for the pond studies. Jerry Gibson will continue to organize for the Forum at WW and has arranged for site #32. Vivien reminded us that we need volunteers to "man" the tables and this was tabled until next meeting.

- Beach Accessibility:

An interesting discussion ensued regarding access to the Town and Seashore beaches. Judy pointed out that visitors had limited access to Town beaches and that the policy of "no drop-offs" at the Seashore was inconvenient to visitors and detrimental to the hospitality industry. In addition, the Route 6 sign by Salt Pond often indicates that Nauset Light Beach is full, even when that is not accurate, and redirects traffic to Marconi Beach sending potential customers to Wellfleet and depriving Eastham businesses of much needed revenue.

Judy suggested that the Town explore the possibility of bus service to the beaches as practiced in Provincetown and elsewhere on the Cape. Loretta said that the Forum should formulate a proposal and take a stand on this issue of beach accessibility and drop-offs.

Bob reminded us that the Seashore's position has been that their restrictions were based on the preservation of the integrity of the beach and that the wastewater systems were limited in capacity.

Judy acknowledged this but added that the Town's needs were not being represented, that the beaches were for people to enjoy and that money could be allocated by the Seashore to revise their Septic requirements.

Peter suggested that we organize a forum to discuss this critical issue and all agreed on the importance of addressing this situation.

- Search Committee

The question arose whether the By-Laws Committee might make recommendations for this committee and the discussion was tabled until the August meeting.

- Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Monday October 19th at 7 PM. Jerry will try to secure the Methodist Church Hall for the meeting. Helen and Vivien will help with the arrangements. Bob recommended we ask Clay Scofield from CCC to speak and ask representatives from the National Seashore and Town Beaches to address the issues of accessibility etc.

- Vacancies

Once again, the Secretary's seat has been filled by yours truly, Ron Edson. The Vice President's seat still remains vacant.

- Other Business

The next meeting of the Eastham Forum will take place Wednesday August 19th at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Edson