

Eastham Forum Directors Meeting Minutes
3 P.M. May 21 2009
Eastham Police Department Conference Room

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

Forum directors in attendance:

Vivien Cook, Helen Smith, Ron Edson, Peter Markunas, Bob Mumford, Loretta Neilsen, Jeanne Cole, Al Sette.

Prospective member of the board Judith Cannon was introduced to the board.

Minutes of the April 16 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Helen Smith moved to accept the minutes and they were seconded and accepted.

Ron Edson accepted the position of Secretary for the meeting and prepared the minutes.

The Secretary's position is still vacant as are two seats on the Board of Directors.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Al Sette gave the treasurer's report to the board:

There was a total income of \$2,866.64 with expenses totaling \$980.58 leaving a Total Balance of \$15,112.07 with no bills pending.

Total membership is 279

There was discussion about a transfer of check signing capabilities for Peter Markunas while Al Sette undergoes a hip replacement procedure on June 10. Peter will work with Al to secure the necessary paper work to allow him to sign checks in Al's absence. At present checks may be signed only by Al and Jerry Gibson.

New Business:

There was discussion concerning the scholarship fund for a Nauset High School student. A student is selected each year by the Forum in conjunction with the Guidance Department at Nauset High School to receive a scholarship of \$500. Loretta will contact the Guidance Department at Nauset to select this year's awardee. Loretta made a motion to provide the scholarship at the Forum's June meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Windmill Weekend:

There was discussion about Windmill Weekend and Loretta agreed to deliver the application forms to reserve a spot for the Forum and request an electrical connection.

Helen agreed to check the mail at the Post Office as a follow-up to the application process.

Loretta posed the question of which displays should be included at the Forum's table this year and suggested that Sandy Bayne be contacted to provide materials on the water situation in Eastham. She also agreed to contact Sheila Vanderhoef for information regarding Wind Turbines in Eastham.

Helen suggested we include information about ocean studies.

Peter suggested we provide information about accessibility (parking etc.) issues at the seashore.

Helen suggested we provide information about the status of the library relocation project. Loretta requested volunteers to schedule people to sit at the table and all agreed to discuss this at the August meeting prior to Windmill Weekend.

There was discussion about arranging for the tent for WW and Peter volunteered to contact Jerry, who had previously made the arrangement, and complete the arrangements for the rental.

Protocol for Action Items:

There was brief discussion concerning authority that might be granted to allow Directors to freely and quickly deal with the Board's direction without needing further authorization from the Board. This discussion was tabled until a future date.

Use of the new website:

Peter spoke of the progress he has made with the upgraded Eastham Forum website with the help of a friend Donna Benavides of Cape Cod Graphics. Peter requested that Cape Cod Graphics continue in the capacity of volunteer web design associate and be allowed to include their professional logo on the web page. A discussion ensued, a motion to accept the assistance of Cape Cod Graphics and to include their logo on the Eastham Forum web page, and the motion passed unopposed.

A discussion ensued about means to open the Forum's web page to input from Eastham citizens' comments and concerns. There was concern expressed that inappropriate or politically biased commentary might dominate the page without some type of editorial control or oversight. There was discussion that an editorial review panel should be appointed and that discussion was inconclusive at this time. Vivien and Helen had reservations about the appropriateness of opening the web page to the public. Vivien had to leave at 4 PM and the discussion was tabled until a future date.

Monthly Electronic Newsletter:

Peter introduced the idea of the possibility of accepting credit card payments for membership dues via the web site as well as more pro-active outreach to notify prospective members of our existence. The discussion was tabled until further notice.

Monthly Finance Statement and Use of Forum Funds:

Discussion ensued regarding the “transparency” of financial activity. Peter requested possibility of more detailed accounting practices. Al suggested that the process was more than adequate. Loretta posed the notion that we hire a CPA to perform an audit of our books. Further discussion on the matter was tabled until a future meeting.

By-Laws Update:

A motion was made to form a committee to review the Eastham Forum by-laws. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob and Peter volunteered for the task and two more members will be required to perform the review. At present a quorum of 5 members is required to hold a meeting and that is one of the issues under review.

Board of Directors Vacancies:

There is still a vacancy for Secretary and two vacancies on the Board. Judith Cannon had to leave at 4 PM and will hopefully fill one of those vacant seats.

The next meeting of the Board will be Thursday June 18, 2009 at 3 PM at the Eastham Police Department conference room.