

Wellfleet National Seashore Homeowners Association Annual Meeting Minutes - July 28, 2013

Susanna Deiss, President, opened the meeting and presided over it. Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were approved, with the replacement of "Susan" with "Susanna" in the first sentence.

Tony Sager, Treasurer, reported that WNSHA has \$3,316.94 in its checking account. Executive Committee members Pat Bartlett, Paul Conor, and Juliet Stone were re-elected.

Peter McMahon, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Modern House Trust, spoke on "Modern Architecture in the CCNS" as the first installment of WNSHA's "Seashore Cultural Legacy" series. He described the Bauhaus architects and artists, and New England artists, who started putting up summer cottages in the Wellfleet woods beginning in the 1940s. What was unique about Cape architecture was that it was do-it-yourself, ad hoc, done by self-taught designers and carpenters. The newcomers combined vernacular and modern, re-using materials. Houses, some listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation were designed by Marcel Breuer, Serge Chermayeff, Olaf Hammerstrom, Nathaniel Saltonstall, and Charles Zehnder. Seven are now owned by the Park, and some of these have been restored by CCMHT under long-term leases. CCMHT will consult with any owners of modernist houses if they are considering restoring or remodeling them.

Robert Cook, CCNS Wildlife Ecologist, spoke about "The Ecology of Wildlife Species in the CCNS - Rare and Seldom Seen Among Us". Most wildlife, he said, is small, retiring, elusive, avoiding humans, and often nocturnal, unlike the iconic bison of Western parks. These smaller creatures are the majority of wildlife by number, biomass, and ecological functions. As for plants, there are over 800 species in the CCNS, 630 of them native. Rarely seen species in the Park include the Red-Backed Salamander, Grey Treefrog, Spadefoot Toad, Pickerel Frog, Ring-Neck Snake, Hognose Snake, Northern Water Snake, and Stinkpot Turtle. Also native here are Voles, Shrews, and Moles, plus Weasels. Careful listeners can hear the Saw-Whet Owl, Vesper Sparrow, Virginia Rail, and American and Least Bitterns.