



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Concerns of Cotuit Meeting, Thursday, May 24, 2018, 8:30 AM
Freedom Hall

Present: Executive Board - Jim Dannhauser, Natalie Spence, Phyllis Miller, Tom Burgess, Bill Babcock, Chris Gargiulo, Dick Hamilton

Town Officials - Jessica Rapp Grassetti, Town Councilor; Mark Ells, Town Manager; Matthew Sonnabend, Chief of Police; Lynne Poyant, Community Services; Elizabeth Jenkins, Planning and Development; Dan Horn, Harbormaster; Derek Lawson, Mooring Officer; Dan Santos, Director, DPW; Rob Steen, Assistant Director, DPW; Griffin Boden, Atlantic Design

- 1. Cotuit Channel Dredging:** Mark Ells reported that efforts are ongoing to establish a funding mechanism for this project. The Town will return to the Community Preservation Committee and will seek funding from waste water sources. Deferral of the item at the Town Council has been necessary but should not indicate unwillingness to undertake the dredging. The Town awaits the decision of the magistrate at the DEP hearing. Plans are ongoing for comprehensive permitting of dredging as an ongoing maintenance issue on all town waterways.
- 2. Ropes and Riley's Beaches:** Phyllis Miller reported the big belly receptacle is now in place at Riley's. Jim Dannhauser read a letter from Rob Padgett which detailed his frustration in finding a spot for his dinghy at Ropes when all the spaces at the low fences have been taken by over 60 kayaks deposited there. Dan Horn noted that some of the kayaks are without a name sticker. These will be removed after a warning note is placed on them. Jim Dannhauser submitted a photograph of the dinghy racks recently installed at the end of Mashpee Neck Road, suggesting that some solution such as that might be helpful at Ropes. Clearly there is a need for controlled and efficient boat storage at this site. The Harbormaster's office was pressed to speed up the formation of the committee to review this area and be more active with enforcement. APCC is already at work on improvements to water run off which may impact vessel storage.
- 3. 671 Main Street:** Jessica Grassetti reported that liens and monitoring issues have been resolved and occupancy permits have been issued for 2 affordable units and 1 market price unit. Phyllis Miller noted that there is still debris in the catch basin near Main Street and a large dead spruce that poses a danger to power lines etc.
- 4. Memorial Park:** The design is being reviewed to estimate the costs. In the meantime, the front beds need new flowers. When the Town undertakes the project, the flag pole needs to be replaced or repaired.

5. **APCC Storm Water Work:** Rob Steen noted that the Town continues to support this work and will cover all the progress so far in a full-scale review at the end of the meeting [see below]. Rob will update this presentation for a general meeting of the Association in July.
6. **Road Paving Needs:** Town officials want the public to use the “**Report a Problem**” feature of the Town website to report potholes etc. This replaces “See, Click and Fix”. Items entered under the new system become work orders directly. Jessica requested slow signs in the Mariners Circle area and attention to Highland Ave. and Lake St. The Town will research paving Santuit Road as a connector road to School St. Dan Santos has scheduled improvements at the junction of Old Oyster Road and Lewis Pond Road in the Fall. Drainage improvements at 114 Popponessett Road are scheduled for next month.
7. **Sidewalk Repair and Hedge Trimming/Removal:** Dan Santos asked that issues be reported directly to DPW. Hedge removal at 1055 Main has been delayed for a week by property owner request. The Town can prune large hedges which encroach sidewalks, but this will be unsightly and possibly lethal to the plantings. Replanting well back from the property line is the best solution. The Yews which obscure exiting the corner of Piney Road and Main Street are scheduled to be removed or trimmed to provide an acceptable sight line for automobiles. Natalie Spence requested that the lilacs at the corner of Nickerson Road and Main Street also be trimmed back. The sidewalk and shoulder of Main Street between Sea Street and Ocean View Ave to the north need attention.
8. **Lowell Ave. Parking:** Tom Burgess requested the Town examine parking on both sides of Lowell Ave. In many places cars can park entirely off the pavement, thus offering ample room for emergency vehicles. The town will contact Andy Bonacker, President of the Kettleers’ Board for suggestions. There was general agreement that the parking lot needs attention with paving and line painting. Where safe parking is possible it should be allowed, where it is not, no parking signs should be enforced.
9. **Trees:** The Town continues to try to remove dead and damaged trees. This year has been particularly hard. “Report a Problem” is a good way to contact the Town on this issue.
10. **Loop Beach:** Lifeguards and an attendant will be on site from June 23rd until the second week in August. Mark Ells made an appeal for local students to apply for lifeguard jobs. The Town is still looking to fill 8 positions. The Department of Recreation handles beach clean-up at Loop by reporting to the DPW. In response to a question from Jessica Grasseti, Mark Ells noted that Lovells Pond will remain “swim at your own risk” until further notice. Many Town ponds lack their beaches as the water table is so high at the moment.
11. **Parking:** Jessica requested an additional handicapped parking place at the Town Dock. The Chief of Police requested that villagers call if a problem is ongoing, whether parking or some other issue. There will not be paving of the south shoulder on Ocean View as it leaves Loop Beach. Parking should use the existing shoulder.
12. **Town Dock:** Dan Horn noted that the Town Dock is specifically for loading and off-loading. Derek Lawson will ask patrols to watch for offenders. Concerns and complaints should be called in to the Harbormaster’s office.
13. **Garbage accumulation:** The big belly trash cans do a good job but there is continual overage at the Town Dock, Riley’s and elsewhere, some of which is brought in from inland. Jessica asked at the bollard at the Town Dock be replaced. There was general agreement that egregious offenders

be ticketed and fined \$200. However, many people leaving the water with bagged trash, think they are merely doing a good service by leaving it neatly by the big bellies when they are full or if the bagged trash is too big to enter the receptacle. Rob Steen reported, on reviewing the camera footage from here, seeing a person in a Mercedes arrive and leave trash at the big belly! Mark Ells believes an attendant at this area is necessary.

14. Pedestrian Improvements at Main and School: Liz Jenkins will research this, which seems to have slipped through the cracks at the change of staff at Planning and Development.

15. Water Quality Issues: Rob Steen and Griffin Boden gave a Power-Point update on progress with water quality issues in the Town. Significant progress has been made toward designing the expansion of the existing traditional sewage system in Hyannis into areas west of its border, from route 132 in the north to Long Pond in the south. There is a review of the current station in Marstons Mills toward conversion to a pumping station to a route 28 connector to the Hyannis network. The non-traditional project to dredge the Mill Pond and convert existing and abandoned cranberry bogs into a natural nitrogen removal system is ongoing. The State has requested samples to be taken from the Mill Pond which is a good sign that the DEP is prepared to review this project. All waste water projects are designed over a 20-40-60 year period to eventually remove 100% of the nitrogen going into bays and estuaries from controllable sources. The costs of all are not inconsiderable.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary