



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 7:00 PM
Cotuit Library

Present: James Dannhauser, Tom Burgess, Natalie Spence, Seth Burdick, Len Carter, Chris Cohoat, Mark Lynch, Mark Stranberg, Carol Zais

Absent: Chris Gargiulo, Lallie Lloyd, Mike Scanlon

Guests: Fran Parks, Cotuit Fire District Prudential Committee; Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Town Councilor

Call to Order: Jim Dannhauser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Len Carter and Chris Cohoat as new members of the Executive Board, filling out the terms of Fred Johanson and Dave Doyle.

Guest Presentation: Jim welcomed Fran Parks, who gave a brief presentation of what the Fire District is proposing in its forthcoming informational meeting at Freedom Hall on November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM to be followed by a special district meeting on the following Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30 PM. Fran explained that the Prudential Committee explored alternate locations for the needs of the district: office space and storage space for district records as well as up-grades to the Fire House. The Fire House can be refitted to conform to current codes. For the other needs, availability and cost factors at other sites were about the same or more than what the district is proposing: a free-standing building at the 56 High Street location. Various restrictions and mandates on municipal building will put the cost of this project at 1.7 million dollars. The scheduled meeting are to inform the public of the scope of this project and to seek funds to start the design phase: to wit: To see if the District will vote to transfer and appropriate and/or borrow and appropriate the sum of \$198,085.00 for Architectural and Consulting Services for Schematic Design Thru Construction Bidding for a District Office Building at 56 High Street.

Discussion followed the presentation, in which various members and the Town Councilor expressed concerns that the cost of the project outweighed the necessities of office space and archival storage. Jessica noted that she gets pushback from residents who see their district taxes rising. The District has already been appropriated money for previous designs which proved excessively expensive. With the proposed request the cost of the entire project will near 2 million dollars. Jim Dannhauser advised Fran that there could be opposition to the proposal and the Prudential Committee may have to explore other options for the future.

Business Meeting:

- 1. Secretary's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Secretary's minutes of the Executive Board meeting of October 1, 2019 were accepted as written.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report to October 31, 2019 was accepted.

3. **Precinct 7 Report:** Jessica Rapp Grasseti updated the board on the following items:

- **Speeding:**

- Jessica continues to receive complaints about this, lately concerning Old Post Road and Old Kings Road. The situation on the latter will not be improved when the culvert across the Santuit River is completed as the project will leave the roadbed widened to 20 feet which will not deter speeding as dis the former narrow bridge. A pink granite stone found on site will be erected to note the site of the Josiah Sampson mill near the bridge.

- **Short Term Rentals:**

- Jim Dannhauser asked Jessica about the Town's attitude toward this subject. The Osterville Civic Association is campaigning for restrictions on absentee homeowners running Airbnb type rentals in the Town. Jessica stated that the Town will put an ordinance in place eventually and has heard complaints about overcrowding and excessive noise. Comments and complaints should be directed to the Town Council.

4. **Christmas in Cotuit:** Jim Dannhauser had circulated a list of the items and tasks needed to carry off the day successfully. The Board voted unanimously to grant \$150.00 to the Cotuit Memorial Library to cover the cost of children's entertainment on that afternoon. Board members took assignments for various duties on the day. Fire Chief Paul Rhude has kindly offered to be Santa Claus. The date is **Saturday, December 7.**

5. **Report on Fire District Meetings:** Carol reported that Water Commissioners have a new member, Scott Horsley, who brings long experience with water issues to the Board of Commissioners. He has begun testing water in Little River to see what effect heavy pumping from the well fields has on water flow in the river. Jim Dannhauser noted that some attention may be required to stay on top of the promised rate reduction in the forthcoming year after the new rates had been in effect for over one year. Carol noted that the Fire Commissioners are involved with union contract negotiations.

6. **Website Revamp:** Chris Cohoat made a brief presentation of his model for the new web pages. He will need photos of Board members for the page listing them.

7. **Membership:** Jim Dannhauser noted that 18 of the 40 past year members who received e-mail reminders had paid dues. Of the 329 current members, 142 had made donations in addition to the \$25.00 dues.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary