



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 7:00 PM
On-Line Meeting via Zoom

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

Guests: Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Town Councilor

Call to Order: Jim Dannhauser called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Business Meeting:

- 1. Secretary's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Secretary's minutes of the Executive Board meeting of December 2, 2019 were accepted as written.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report to March 31, 2020 was accepted as written. Natalie Spence noted that, at a time when donations and dues were usually sparse, several donations totalling in excess on \$1000.00 had come in via a funerary request to support Xmas in Cotuit.
- 3. Precinct 7 Report:** Jessica Rapp Grasseti updated the board on the following items:
 - **Condolences:** Jessica expressed her condolences to Valerie Morgan over the death of her husband, Jerry, long-time "Easter Bunny" at Library Easter children's events.
 - **Town Council Duties:** Jessica has been participating in Town business via Zoom. She noted the revised due date for property tax bills. The due date of Cotuit water bills, however, remains unchanged as of this meeting.
 - **Coronavirus:** The Town has issued guidelines for social distancing, mask and glove wearing etc. in accordance with State rulings. Jessica shared the current statistics of cases within the Town.
 - **Infrastructure improvements:** Improved drainage works are completed or ongoing on Lake St., the corner of Lowell Ave. and Main St., 336 Main St., and Putnam Ave. at the Little River culvert which runs underneath Putnam near the intersection with Capt. Isaiah Rd. Old King's Highway repaving is nearing completion.

- **2021 Town Capital Improvements Program:** In light of the economic downturn to be expected from the Coronavirus closures, the CIP has been reduced to 30 projects of which the resurfacing of Ocean View Ave. and Phase 3 of the Sampson's Island dredging project are the only items which pertain to Precinct 7. Improvement to Memorial Park has been removed from the list, but funding is likely to be sought from Community Preservation funds.
- **Cotuit Primary School:** Jessica toured the school with Cape Cod Hospital and County officials as part of an assessment for additional hospital space for Coronavirus patients. The building is antiquated, especially the mechanical systems, and was a mess at the time of the visit. The playground has been removed as a danger. Jessica speculated that a use for the space would probably require the razing of the building. Jim Dannhauser cautioned that the lot sits close to a well field. The playing field and parking area are heavily used by the village. No decisions on use of this asset should be made without the full cooperation of the village.
- **Coronavirus closures:** The playground in Memorial Park is **closed**. All public beaches remain open. Signage has been placed at Loop and other beach points on proper hygiene during the virus crisis. Town Offices are closed to visitors but beach stickers, dump stickers, and dinghy stickers are available by mail or on-line. The transfer station will be closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays and to recycling until May 4. In the future, recycling stickers may require payment of a fee.
- **Marine and Environmental Affairs:** Dan Horn has retired as harbormaster. Brian Taylor is Acting Harbormaster and Mooring Officer, Derek Lawson is Marina Manager and Deputy Harbormaster
- **Short-term Rentals:** Deliberation is on-going. However, Governor Baker has shut down all short-term rentals except for essential personnel [nurses, first responders et al.].
- **Budgetary concerns forthcoming:** During and after the current crisis, the effect on the economy will be significant. The Town Manager has already called for 5% cuts to Town department budgets, as well as a moratorium on hiring to fill vacancies and on cost of living increases to salaries.

Old Business:

1. **Xmas in Cotuit:** Jim received a plea from Paradise Stables for support to help cover the cost of feeding their horses during the closure during the current closure.
2. **Cotuit Clean-Up:** A date for this is on hold until the current moratorium on group activities is over.
3. **4th of July Parade:** Permits are in hand; applications are on the website; and, as of now, plans to hold the Parade are on.
4. **Concerns of Cotuit:** The Board agreed with Jim Dannhauser that this year's meeting with Town officials be canceled.

5. **Report on Fire District Meetings:** The Prudential Committee is dealing with delaying the district voting and meeting. **Voting is now scheduled for June 23 and the Annual Meeting for the June 24. Civic Association Candidates' Night will be scheduled for June 16. Nomination papers are due at the Town by May 4 and the Fire District by May 18.** The Board authorized Jim to write a letter to all Fire District entities noting that economic concerns suggest that all budgets for the forthcoming year be reviewed and reduced ~~comparable to what where possible~~the Town is doing. Carol Zais reported that the Fire Department is fully staffed. The Water Commissioners are undertaking to serve notice on residents in default on their outstanding water bills.
6. **Website:** Chris Cohoat reported from Austin, Texas that there were no new revisions to the website..

New Business:

1. **Cotuit Library Staffing:** Jim has circulated a letter from Fran Parks expressing concern over staff changes prompted by the Coronavirus closure. A letter from the President of the Library Board had explained the rationale behind the decisions, and Jim had offered help to the Library from SCORE in navigating an application for financial aid from the Small Business Administration. He noted that SCORE could aid other non-profits in the village.
2. **Library Parking Lot:** While the Library is closed, the parking lot is currently being used by the contractors for the APCC raingarden project for the stormwater run-off adjacent to the Library.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary