



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 7:00 PM
On-Line Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: Seth Burdick

Guest: 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 April 7, 2019 were accepted as written.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report to April 30, 2020 was accepted as written. Natalie Spence noted that donations were down as there has been no issue of *Cotuit Currents* lately. Jim Dannhauser said that income might be seriously impacted by the corona virus pandemic if the Cotuit Fishing Tournament is cancelled. However, the Association has sufficient funds to see out the near future. On a motion made and seconded, the Board approved taking an advertisement in the *Kettleers' 2020 Yearbook*, which will be published despite the cancellation of the season.
3. **Precinct 7 Report:** Jessica Rapp Grasseti updated the board on the following items:
 - **Gas Powered Leaf Blowers:** Scott Horsley had approached Jessica concerning the noise from gas powered leaf blowers in the village. Jessica recommended to him that a petition be circulated and delivered to the Infrastructure and Energy Committee of the Town. Electric leaf blowers are far quieter, and other towns have various ordinances governing landscaping noise. Jim Dannhauser noted that Scott had reached out to him to see if the Civic Association would perhaps take a role in this effort. Jim pointed out that this is not within the Association's mission and that he would so advise Scott.
 - **Town Manager Weekly Community Up-date:** Jessica recommended this video report. It is available on TV Channel 18 and is posted on the Town's website. She noted that The Town of Barnstable is **open** but observing restrictions mandated by the governor during the pandemic crisis. It is expected that beaches will remain open, and lifeguards are being hired for the summer. There may be some changes in operations, like closing bathhouses, to mitigate problems with physical distancing.
 - **Covid-19 restrictions:** Everyone is hopeful that some restrictions will ease after May 18. However, current restrictions mean that there can be no launch at the Town Dock until the Governor lifts restrictions on charter boats and launches.

- **Coronavirus statistics:** On April 7, the Town had 58 cases of which 8 were in Cotuit; as of 5 May there were 189 cases in the Town and 8 in Cotuit. 50 of these cases were in one assisted living/nursing facility. According to Chief Paul Rhude, there have been no new cases in Cotuit for 24 days.

Old Business:

1. **4th of July Parade:** After considerable discussion and individual polling of the members of the Board, the Board unanimously decided to cancel the Fourth of July Parade in light of the pandemic crisis. Jim will contact the participating bands and circulate an announcement by Constant Contact.
2. **Corona Virus:** A supply of N-95 masks which the Fire Department hoped to distribute to Cotuit residents was diverted to Cape Cod Health Care who were in need of them. If masks do become available, Chief Rhude will inform Jim who will notify our members by Constant Contact of availability and how to reserve them for Fire Department delivery. There will be a limit of two masks per household.
3. **Report on Fire District Commissioners' Meetings:** Jim noted that all committees had received our letter urging fiscal restraint under the developing economic situation, but the message had fallen upon deaf ears. Carol reported that the Fire Commission has not yet finalized its budget. The Water Commissioners are in agreement that no new lawn irrigation systems should be permitted without an on-site well to provide the water for same. However, this is still an open business item. They voted in their updated policy guidelines. The annual High-Flow Maintenance Flushing Program has been suspended during Governor Baker's extended stay at home order.
4. **Civic Association Monthly Meetings and Fire District Election and Annual Meeting:** A discussion ensued from the above reports concerning the challenge posed by physical/social distancing to holding any public meeting in Freedom Hall. Jim will research the Cotuit Center for the Arts as a possible location for our **Candidates' Night Meeting tentatively scheduled for June 16** as well as the **Fire District Annual Meeting scheduled for June 24**.
5. **Cotuit Currents:** Jim has submitted his copy to Theresa Egan and will add to the issue an abbreviated version of Mark Lynch and Len Carter's very complete list of websites of interest to residents of Cotuit. A complete version will be distributed via Constant Contact to our members and will be posted on the Civic Association Website.
6. **Cotuit Library Staffing:** Tom Burgess noted that he had heard continued concern about the reduction in the Library staff. No other Town library, it is said, has reduced staff during the current crisis. Jim Dannhauser commented that he understood that the Library had not been able to hold several fundraising events and that under the developing economic situation, there were bound to be lay-offs and belt-tightening which would impact not only the library but all non-profits in the village.

New Business:

1. **Vineyard Road Parking:** Lallie Lloyd announced that the Homeowners' Association of Vineyard Road had contacted the Town and a towing service in preparation for towing cars parked on Vineyard Road near its southernmost point. There is no legal parking on this private road. Fisherman, walkers, and others have been leaving their vehicles in this area. Trash has been left on the Mugar property. Vehicles have been leafletted in the past month. The Homeowners' Association has not yet decided an actual date from which to commence with towing. Board members recommended to Lallie that notice be given to the public via Rob Conery's fishing column in the *Cape Cod Times* and *On the Water* magazine. It was also suggested that a general reminder about the need for beach stickers in beach parking lots and the avoidance of parking on private property be included in the *Cotuit Currents*. The only legal parking in this area of the village is at Oregon Beach where a resident parking sticker is necessary.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary