



P. O. Box 121  
Cotuit, MA 02635

**Minutes**  
**Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**On-Line Meeting via Zoom**

**Present:** James Dannhauser, Carol Zais, Tom Burgess, Natalie Spence, Len Carter, Bryan Horsley, Mark Lynch, Phil Odence, Mark Stranberg

**Absent:** Chris Cohoat, Lallie Lloyd, Mike Scanlon

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

**Call to Order:** Jim Dannhauser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed Fran Parks to the meeting. He suggested that the discussion of Fire District interest in the vacant Cotuit Elementary School property be first discussed while Fran was in attendance.

**Business Meeting:**

- 1. Cotuit Elementary School Property:** After a brief recap of recent Town Asset Management Committee and Cotuit Water Commissioner meetings, Jim noted that the Town seemed to prefer to demolish the existing school. There was no eagerness to dispose of the fields and tennis courts from Town ownership, as the Town recognizes the significant interest among Villagers for retaining those for public use. Discussion ensued on how best to present options to the village on possible use of the property. Reconfiguring the present building for District use seems prohibitively expensive. After lengthy discussion about properly estimating the costs of reconfiguring the building, or constructing a new building and maintaining such, it was agreed that Fran Parks should seek to form a committee with a representative from the Prudential Committee, Fire Commissioners, Water Commissioners and the Civic Association along with representatives from the village, who may have experience in evaluating such properties and their costs, to formulate a proposal that conforms to a vision that the village has for the property and evaluates its cost. Jessica Rapp Grasseti concurred. Jim thanked Fran Parks for her input and attendance.
- 2. Secretary's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Secretary's minutes of the Executive Board meeting of September 1, 2020 were accepted as written.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report to September 30, 2020 was accepted as written. Natalie noted that year to date donations were running somewhat lower than last year as a result of the absence of a grant that had been received from Hyannis last year and the fact that the Firecracker race had not taken place, but that memberships had increased.
- 4. Precinct 7 Report:**
  - Lovell's Pond has been closed due to Cyanobacteria contamination.
  - Regulation is being developed for a by-law on accessory rental units.
  - There is a Flu Clinic 9-11:30, 10/7 at the Greek Orthodox Church. No high dose vaccine is available for seniors.
  - Dredging is under way at Sampson's Island.

- The elevated cross walks planned for Main St. have been moved to the capital financing plan for 2022.
  - The Historical Society has installed an informative plaque on the stone from Sampson's Mill which was erected by the Santuit River culvert.
  - The Mercy Otis Warren 'Cape Cod Woman of the Year Award', which is presented to a woman who is a resident of Cape Cod, and who has demonstrated leadership in the Cape Cod community, while embracing the ideals of patriotism will be awarded this year to Mimi McConnell of Cotuit.
5. **Civic Association Events Committee;** Jim Dannhauser thanked Mark Lynch, Mark Stranberg and Len Carter for agreeing to continue on as the Events Committee after their successful project over July 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Christmas in Cotuit:** It was agreed that the traditional activities run by the Civic Association would have to be cancelled because of the restrictions in force during the pandemic. Numerous suggestions were made for other activities over the first Saturday in December, all including the aspect of gathering donations for the needy. It was generally agreed that having Santa perhaps stationed in the park for a certain period and a central spot where donations could be accepted might be the most feasible. Tom Burgess suggested that the committee liaise with the Church regarding donations for the needy. The Events Committee - Mark Lynch, Mark Stranberg and Len Carter - will work on an eventual proposal to be reviewed at the November meeting of the Executive Board.
7. **Report on Video Equipment for Freedom Hall Meetings:** Carol Zais reported that the Fire Department has returned equipment bought for \$1,000. She and her son, Nevin, brought in equipment and cables including an SD card and tested these and found them satisfactory. With facility to allow 'view and listen only' attendance via Zoom, the cost for this will be \$583.73. This will allow for villagers to view meetings after the fact or attend remotely.
8. **Report on Fire District meetings:** Carol Zais gave a brief synopsis of recent meetings:
- Fire Commissioners: promotion of a fire fighter to Lieutenant, review of the Chief's contract, security upgrades to the building including doors and security cameras, letters of appreciation for fire training by staff. One of the Fire Commissioners had attended the public meeting of the water commissioners on 9/23 and participated in that discussion regarding the Cotuit School.
  - Prudential Committee; Auditor's report, Treasurer's Report, Cotuit School. The bond sale restructuring some of the Fire District debt went through on 10/5.
  - Water Commissioners: Extensive discussion of the Cotuit Elementary School property, extension of the moratorium on hooking up irrigation systems to the public water supply for 6 months, discussion of moving a well or wells to impact less on Little River.
  - Covid-19 in Cotuit, after a long lull, instances of positives were recorded on 9/20, 28 and 29 and 10/2.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary