



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Executive Board Meeting, Monday November 2, 2020, 7:00 PM
On-Line Meeting via Zoom

Present: James Dannhauser, Carol Zais, Tom Burgess, Natalie Spence, Len Carter, Mark Lynch, Phil Odenca, Mark Stranberg

Absent: Chris Cohoat, Bryan Horsley, Lallie Lloyd, Mike Scanlon

Guest: Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Town Councilor

Call to Order: Jim Dannhauser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Business Meeting:

1. **Secretary's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Secretary's minutes of the Executive Board meeting of October 6, 2020 were accepted as written.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's report to October 31, 2020 was accepted as written. The board recommended unanimously that checking account funds over \$15,000.00 be transferred to the money market account.
3. **Precinct 7 Report:**
 - Jessica noted in reference to the minutes of 10/6/2020 that the raised crosswalks planned for Main Street are in the current suggested Capital Improvement Plan but that still requires approved in the Spring for fiscal year 2022.
 - Recent Town Council meetings have been occupied with the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan. These meetings are worth watching on the Town website. There is possible stimulus money to support the costs; 38 million dollars has already been spent on development. The Town manager is intent on the success of the plan which must be reviewed by the State and the Cape Cod Commission. The 21-day period specified in the Conservation Law Foundation notice of suit has lapsed, but no suit has yet been filed. Jessica hopes that this can be settled without incurring costs by the Town.
 - The Town has earned nearly 1 million dollars in revenue from short term rental taxes over the last few months. The Town Council will continue to discuss a zoning change and ordinance in its next meeting.
 - Andy Cliburn, Assistant Town Manager has been named the point person for correspondence about the future of the Cotuit School. Jim Dannhauser reported that Fran Parks of the Prudential Committee has started the process of forming a committee to research the future of the school as a District possession. Carol Zais reported that after a visit to the school by the District Treasurer and members of the Fire District Commissions, there was a renewed desire for a committee - perhaps of 9 members from the District Commissions and other entities. There was sentiment among the District Commissions that this was an opportunity not to be missed. Jim Dannhauser agreed but noted that this could only be brought to the village after thorough research of infrastructure requirements and cost, as well as education of the public.
 - Vessels are required to be removed from Town property by 11/15/20.
 - There is a drive through Flu Clinic 3-5:00 PM, 11/4 at the Greek Orthodox Church. Consent forms may be downloaded at the Board of Health website and filled out prior to attending the clinic. No

high dose vaccine is available for seniors. Several Board members reported that high dose flu vaccine is intermittently available at local pharmacies.

- Dredging is going quickly at Sampson's Island and is expected to be completed on time.
- Private Roads: This may impact Town fiscal policy when the Town seeks to put the infrastructure of sewerage under private ways.
- The Governor has issued new restrictions to meet the surge in COVID-19 cases in October. These include a stay-at-home order between 10 PM and 5 AM, a 10-person limit on gatherings inside and a 25-person limit on such outside.

Old Business:

4. **Christmas in Cotuit:** The Events Committee reported on their plans for Saturday, December 5. Paul Rhude will act as Santa and be transported in the brush breaker vehicle of the Fire Department as that has an elevated platform on which Santa can stand. Families with children will be able to reserve a visit ahead of time and a route will be planned to allow all the families a visit from Santa from 2:30 to 4:30 that day. The same hours on Sunday, December 6, will serve as a rain date. The brush breaker will be followed by a pick-up truck that can accept donations of food, diapers and other items on the Cotuit Federated Church's needy list. Phil Odence and Natalie Spence will accompany the vehicles. After some discussion, it was decided that a second truck might visit families without children who may wish to make a donation to the needy through the Xmas in Cotuit drive. Mark Stranberg will research with the Cotuit Center for the Arts and/or Lisa, our usual DJ, the possibility of a Zoom concert at the end of the day possibly concluding with the lighting of the tree. Len Carter has bought additional lights for the tree. The Board unanimously voted to make a \$1000.00 donation to the Church needy fund. On behalf of the Board, Jim Dannhauser expressed his appreciation for the committee's work. As soon as details are finalized, the schedule for the day will be sent out via *Cotuit Currents* and Constant Contact.
5. **Cotuit Mooring Field:** Bunker and Dake Henderson have done considerable research on the expansion of the mooring field in Cotuit Bay since an agreement was forged with the Harbormaster and the Waterways Committee in 1994 by the efforts of Bunker and a committee of the Civic Association led by Peter Hickman. Tom Burgess asked if there might be any interest in pursuing this matter with the harbormaster. Jim Dannhauser felt that the interests represented primarily the sailing fraternity of the bay and that other interests would be aggrieved by any effort to reduce the size of the mooring field to its 1994 limits. Natalie Spence felt that the Yacht Club and the Association should offer to work with the Harbormaster in a positive manner to ensure safe navigation and enough space for instructional sailing and racing. The Board suggested that Bunker meet with the harbormaster to confer on the subject in detail and report back.
6. **Report on Video Equipment for Freedom Hall Meetings:** Carol Zais reported that a successful test of the equipment had been made and that she had purchased a dock for \$186.99 which will allow the rapid hook-up of any laptop computer or tablet to the equipment. This should make videoing meetings and offering Zoom capability relatively easy. The Board thanked Carol for efforts.
7. **Report on Fire District meetings:** Carol Zais gave a brief synopsis of recent meetings:
 - Fire Commissioners: Installation of security cameras at the firehouse is nearing completion. Negotiations for the chief's new contract for 3 years are beginning. Recent training sessions have gone well. The chief's new car has arrived. New systems allow the electronic transfer of patient reports direct to Cape Cod Healthcare from the ambulance which will allow for much faster turnaround on calls.
 - Water Commissioners: Despite recent rains, drought is still major concern for the Water Commission, hence the extension of the ban on the installation of new irrigation systems. Bills may be paid on-line now, but Visa is not yet accepted. The purchase of a car for the superintendent is taking more time and costing more than had been anticipated. It has been recommended that he go through the Town's procurement department.
 - Prudential Committee: Silvio Genao has sold his house and will be leaving the Prudential Committee. They may appoint a member to fill in or continue to operate with only two elected members. There was an error in the warrant for the bond refinance which will necessitate paying the costs out of free

cash instead of the proceeds of the refinance. There has been a request to pay the Assistant Treasurer overtime when her work exceeds 30 hours per week.

New Business

8. **Sign case at the Cotuit Fresh Market:** Phil Oence reported that a glass covered notice board formerly used by the Waldorf School at the Cotuit Fresh Market has been offered to the Civic Association by Seth Burdick. The Board welcomed the idea. Phil and Tom Burgess will paint and letter the box for eventual posting of *Cotuit Currents* and Constant Contact notices.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary