



P. O. Box 121  
Cotuit, MA 02635

**Minutes**  
**Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 6, 2022, 7:00 PM**

**Present:** James Dannhauser, Carol Zais, Tom Burgess, Natalie Spence, Len Carter, Lallie Lloyd, Mike Scanlon, Kris Sexton, Mark Stranberg; via Zoom: Phil Odence, Lisa Vasiloff

**Guests:** Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Precinct 7 Town Councilor; Sean Brown, Cotuit Fire Department Chief; Kelly Barber, Barnstable Land Trust Land Stewardship Coordinator

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

**Fire Chief Introduction:** Jim Dannhauser and members of the Board introduced themselves to Sean Brown, Cotuit's new Fire Chief. Chief Brown explained that after having been brought up in Cotuit and the Town of Barnstable, he had spent the major portion of his working career in New Hampshire where he had been chief of the Concord, NH fire department. When the Cotuit position had come open, he and his wife determined to move back where the majority of their family still resided. He looks forward to working with a department and community that is locally oriented, where the first question is "How are you?" not "Who are you?". He will be supporting the Civic Association's events and profiting from the outreach available to the community through the *Cotuit Currents*, the Association Facebook page, and Constant Contact. The Chief welcomed a chance to appear at the June 21 general meeting of the Association at Freedom Hall to meet residents in person. In response to questions about staffing, the Chief explained that the search for a Deputy Chief has been deferred to the Autumn. Temporary replacement will be found for administrative staff leaving in July, but that position will need to be filled in the Autumn to allow him to work effectively on future budget concerns and other department business. The rest of the department is fully staffed which is fortunate given the very difficult situation that currently exists everywhere in recruiting staff.

**Guest Presentation:** Kelly Barber, Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Barnstable Land Trust introduced the Land Trust's new initiative for the Eagle Pond/Bell Farm sanctuary, where a tradition of letting dogs roam off-leash has created problems for or deterred walkers who are concerned about being confronted by dogs off-leash and from dog waste left on and off trails which threatens the habitat and waters of Eagle Pond. The Trust will undertake a program of education starting this month and continuing throughout the summer with signage, flyers, and on-site monitoring by pairs of volunteers at various times during the week to ask visitors to the sanctuary to conform to the Town of Barnstable's leash law and walk their dogs on the leash and to pick up and carry out dog waste by the mutt mitts which are available on site. The Trust realizes that there will be push back against this change to long allowed off-leash behavior but conformation to the law is necessary and welcomed by a significant portion of those wishing to use the site. Visitors unwilling to abide by the leash law will be asked to leave the property. The Trust hopes that the change will gradually be accepted and that closing the properties entirely to dogs will not have to be adopted. The Board recommended that Kelly or another representative from BLT come to the June 21 general meeting at Freedom Hall to talk with the public about this initiative. The Association can advertise this change via Facebook and its other platforms. Kris Sexton recommended that the BLT have a presence at the 4th of July Parade.

**Business Meeting:**

1. **Secretary's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Secretary's minutes of the Executive Board meeting of May 3, 2022, were accepted as written. The minutes of the "Concerns of Cotuit" meeting of May 18, 2022, were also approved. Jim Dannhauser will send these to Mark Ells, Town Manager with a list of items that the Town has proposed to complete.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's two-month report to May 31, 2022 was accepted as written. Natalie noted that the Annual Appeal letter is due this month which will boost income. The appeal letter will be mailed with the June edition of *Cotuit Currents* to economize on [postage costs.
3. **Precinct 7 Report:**
  - **Little River Road:** Residents have complained of excessive speed and desire traffic calming bumps and one way traffic between Old Post Road and Putnam Avenue. Neither of these proposals are likely to be implemented. The Town will install signage indicating "Thickly Settled – 30 MPH". There is no appetite in the Town to adopt the State 25 MPH limit on small roads.
  - **Beach Stickers:** 2021 Barnstable beach stickers are valid until 6/24/22. There is no on-site location to acquire a beach sticker, and many people have difficulty in applying on-line which requires uploading documents etc. There is still a mail-in option which requires less expertise.
  - **Town Dock – parking and idling:** Natalie Spence reported the contractors working on the abutting MacKinnon property are taking multiple parking places at Town Dock with unstickered vehicles. These are often idling for long periods. Regarding the parking violations, Jessica recommended calling the police chief and the parking officer. These vehicles should be parking on-site.

#### Old Business:

1. **Beaches:**
  - **Riley's** will be cleaned on June 18 at 10 AM. The Town will supply a dumpster and 5-gallon buckets. Volunteers and the local Boy Scout troop will rake the beach and remove shells and detritus to the dumpster. Mark Stranberg acknowledged the outreach by Lawrie Peirson to the "regulars" but asked that additional advertising be done to ensure good support for the Boy Scout troop. Information will go out on Facebook, Constant Comment and *Cotuit Currents*.
  - **Ropes** still needs a visit from the Conservation Commission. The old permit for Phragmites removal has expired, and that process required Town personnel and the use of herbicide. It remains to be seen if the Conservation Commission can permit the physical removal of the grasses encroaching on the public beach section defined by the low fences to each side of the sand. The beach is in great need of nourishment as evidenced by low level of the beach against the concrete retaining wall.
2. **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:** Jim Dannhauser and Mike Scanlon have met with the Events Committee of Len Carter, Mark Stranberg, Lisa Vasiloff and Kris Sexton. Preparations are pretty well in hand. A small number of volunteers are needed and will be sought at the general meeting and by outreach. This year Putnam Avenue south of Lowell Ave. will be closed at 10:00 AM. Incoming traffic will be sent down Lowell for parking first at the Ball Park and then at the school. A Cape Cod Tech class is holding a design competition for posters and flyers, which will be supplied free to the Association.

#### New Business:

1. **"Who Runs Cotuit?":** Carol Zais reported that she had finally obtained a copy of this document which was prepared some years ago by Mimi McConnell to offer information about the workings of the Cotuit Fire District. She solicited volunteers to edit the copy both to update the information and reduce the length from 16 pages. She hopes a small group will work on this in the Autumn.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary