



P. O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes
Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 7:00 PM
Cotuit Library

Present: Carol Zais, Lisa Vasiloff, Tom Burgess, Natalie Spence, Len Carter, Jim Dannhauser, Dave Fravel, Phil Odenca [via Zoom], Mark Stranberg

Absent: Jamie Jackson, Kris Sexton, Lallie Lloyd

Guest: Jessica Rapp Grassetti, Town Councilor for Precinct 7

Call to Order: Carol Zais called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted that Jennifer Smith has done a wonderful job in taking over the editing of *Cotuit Currents* and helping develop the website. She could not attend the Board meeting because of a conflict with the Town's Citizens Academy program. Lallie Lloyd has resigned from the Board due to the pressure of other commitments.

Business meeting:

1. **Secretary's Minutes:** On a motion made and seconded, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of December 6, 2022, were approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's Report through April 3, 2023, was accepted. Natalie will explore shifting some checking funds into a CD.
3. **Precinct 7 Report:** Jessica Rapp Grassetti noted the following:
 - **Scholarship Bequest:** At the Town Council meeting on Thursday, April 6, Jessica will introduce a motion to accept a bequest of \$1.29 million dollars from the estate of Edward Crawford of Cotuit to establish a scholarship fund in his name for graduates of Barnstable High School to support post-secondary education with a strong preference for applicants from Cotuit. Details for applications will be settled after acceptance of the bequest.
 - **Stop Signs on School Street:** An all-way stop has been established at the intersection of School Street, Highland Ave., and Piney Road. The town determined that sight lines for cars both on School and the side roads were impeded by the curve and shrubbery and other impediments which justified the creation of the all-way stop. Other traffic signs have been removed in the environs and the village so that the installation does not represent an increase in total signage in Cotuit.
 - **2023 Town CIP:** Items related to Cotuit in the forthcoming Capital Improvement Plan: \$90,000 for a study of the possibility of restoring Little River as an Alewife and Blue-Backed Herring run; \$100,000 for design and permitting of the reconstruction and lengthening of the Town Dock, for which construction is planned for 2025 at a projected cost of \$1.6 million; \$175,000 for installation of a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Old Shore Road and Main Street somewhat to the south of the current crosswalk planned for the Autumn of 2023. There are no current plans for improvement to Memorial Park although two trees have recently been removed. The Civic Association should place this on the Concerns of Cotuit and approach the Community Preservation Committee of the Town to push this project forward.
 - **Cotuit School Property Transfer:** This will go before the Planning Board on 4/10. The first reading for transfer to the Cotuit Fire District will occur on 4/27 and the final enactment will occur on 5/4/23. Jessica will support the motion which, when passed, will then go to the District Meeting at the end of May for ratification of the details. There are three choices for use of the

district's portion of the property: open space to protect the nearby well, alteration if the building into a fire station, and alteration of the building for some other community use.

- **Candidates for Town Council:** Jessica will conclude her allowed 3 terms as Town Councilor this year. She is happy to confer with prospective candidates about the rewards and challenges of the position.

Business Meeting:

4. President's Updates:

- Theresa Egan suggested the Association of the Cotuit Mosquito Yacht Club as an appropriate recipient of the donation in her honor, as thanks for her 9 years as Editor of the Cotuit Currents. A motion was passed by a unanimous vote. Henry O'Shaughnessy responded positively to Carol's letter of thanks.
- The Historical Society is aware of its responsibilities for upkeep the flags hung along Main Street.
- The Christmas tree lights are down and coiled up and stored. They were in working order when removed.
- Lallie Lloyd has resigned from the Board due to the pressure of other commitments. Her term ends this July. The board thanked and recognized her volunteer service. The Board will not seek an immediate replacement
- The forthcoming community meeting will be held in person at Freedom Hall on 4/18/23/ at 7:30 PM. The Water Commissioners will present their proposed new pricing scale which allows for the first 20,000 gallons at no cost.
- Budget and Candidates' Night for the Fire District is planned for 5/23/23 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. This attracts more attendees and allows for full screen presentation of budget information. Ample notice will be made via Constant Contact and *Cotuit Currents* of the earlier starting time.

5. Events Committee:

- Lisa Vasiloff reported that the town DPW will provide materials and a dumpster for the roadside clean up scheduled for Saturday, 5/13/2023. Jamie Jackson will handle a volunteer list, and Lisa will help set s up a Cotuitevents@gmail.com email address to accept inquires and volunteer sign-ups. Dave Fravel will investigate creating a CotuitCivic.com domain for the future.
- Riley's Beach clean-up will occur the same Saturday but is being administered separately by Mark Stranberg coordinating with the Boy Scouts and Riley's Beach regulars. Phil Odence will contact his father about reaching out to Riley's users.
- Mark Stranberg noted that Cape Cod Tech is ready to produce new banners, but he needs final design suggestions from the website team to complete. The Board agreed to purchase two banners a \$152.00 each.
- Posters for the 4th of July Parade are in the works and should be finalized by 4/14/23.
- Mark has applied to the National Guard for a color guard and band for the parade as well as a potential flyover!

6. Update on the New Website:

- Dave Fravel noted that Jennifer Smith has been of tremendous help in developing the new website for which a beta staging version will be available to the members of the Board for review and comment in about a month. The final website will be on a WordPress platform which costs about \$25.00 per month. The Board accepted this cost unanimously.

7. Fire District Meetings:

- In the next quarter's (April, May, June) Lisa Vasiloff will cover Water Commission meetings; Dave Fravel will cover Fire Commissioners and Natalie Spence will cover Prudential Committee.

8. Save Twin Brooks:

- Tom Burgess reported that he had been asked to join a sub-committee of this group to assist with reaching out to the public throughout the whole Town of Barnstable to support the suit against the Cape Cod Commission's permit to the developers of the 315-apartment complex at the West End of Hyannis. Much will depend of the vote of the Town Council on this development and all members are up for election this year. It is in the interest of every village to be informed about this major loss of open space and minimal solution to affordable housing.

9. **Cotuit Fire District Information Packet:** It was generally agreed to defer this revision to the Autumn.

10. ***Cotuit Currents Update:***

- The recent issue was printed in black. The Board suggested that blue be the basic color. Carol noted that all dates will be given in full e.g.: Saturday, May 13, 2023, to prevent confusion with previous year's events. Delivery problems seem to be confined to rural delivery only. Carol will speak with the Post Office.

11. **Nominations for 2023-24:**

- Tom Burgess and Jim Dannhauser will retire after the August Board meeting. Lallie Lloyd has resigned. Phil Odenca will stand for reelection. All members of the Board should seek out potential candidates for the three seats open.

12. **Historical Society Petition:**

- Carol explained a citizen's petition put forth for the Historical Society. The petition is the first step in asking if the Cotuit Fire District would proceed with the undertaking of enabling the district bylaws to include HSSC, so in the future HSSC could potentially receive funding from the district. This must go to the State for approval and then back to a CFD annual meeting and will take considerable time to accomplish.

13. **Insurance:**

- Jim Dannhauser is researching insurance coverage as our current insurer will no longer cover the 4th of July Parade. He is looking for either an insurer to cover just the Parade or new complete coverage that will include the Parade.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas K. Burgess, Secretary