



Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association

Concerns of Cotuit

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2024, 8:30 AM

Location: Freedom Hall

Attendance

Present: Carol Zais CSCA President, Phil Odence CSCA Secretary, Bob Dee CSAC board member, Lisa Vasiloff CSCA Vice President, Seth Burdick Precinct 7, Mark Els, Town manager, Chief Jean Challies, Barnstable Police; Sgt. Troy Perry, Traffic, Barnstable Police; Rob Stein, Assistant Director DPW; Mark Marinaccio, Town Architect; M. Andrew Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager; Chris Gonnella, Director of Community Services; PJ Kelliher, Supervisor, Structures & Grounds; David Anthony, Director, Asset Management; Derek Lawson, Director Marine and Environmental Affairs; Kyle Pedicini, Community & Economic Development Planner.

Topics

Memorial Park Renovations

Carol- Introduced the topic and the long standing need to get this project funded this time around. Carol acknowledged the 4 meetings she and Natalie have had with Mark, P.J, David, Shane and Chris starting back in June 2023. She realizes this project is not funded yet and appreciates the time being spent on design work, regardless. Carol asked why it was taken off the CIP list this year?

Mark Marinaccio – Distributed plot plan with initial design. Working out deeds on encroachments with David Anthony. Lots of planning and discussions still to come. They will need a champion once we pass the CPC hurdle.

Mark Els- It came off the CIP list due to Covid and this year too. Mark will OK plan when it's ready to go to CPC for approval and funding. Then Town Council must approve with Seth's support. DPW is in a good position to move forward based on site and initial design work that's been done.

David- Need to memorialize and rationalize the "encroachments": library parking addition, playground, rain garden, dumpster and possible strip of land behind businesses and corner lot. He can help with Village fundraising to supplement Town funds

Timeline is completely uncertain but it's possible construction could start in Fall 2025, if funds get approved by CPC in fall of 2024.

Mark E- Need to ensure maintenance is provided in future operation budgets.

Cotuit School Fields

Carol- The Cotuit Fire District is still wrestling with fate of school. Aiming for resolving in less than six months. Field seems to have been aerated but it was not the Town.

PJ- fields are not mowed or maintained in any way by DPW. Chris said his department mowed in 2023 a few times from discussions with Kettleers

Chris- Some coordination possible with Cotuit Athletic Association, so Town could mow the field again this year.

Seth- Will work on coordination with Prudential Comm for the possibility of the Town mowing school property.

David- Leech field for the school is under the outfield, so some dependency on what happens to school will need to be considered before Town makes any plans for field.

Carol- We need to resolve where there will be a playground, based on what happens with Memorial Park playground title process.

Mark E- Needs a view from the Village on expectations for uses of the field and then the Town will maintain appropriately. For example, need to understand if there will be parking on the field, soccer field, other.

Beaches

Oregon

Carol- Raised questions of opening beach areas to dogs that Seth had mentioned at a Civic Association meeting. Dereck said the Town is very open to trying a test case and suggests Oregon. There are dog friendly beaches year round in +Sandy Neck, Centerville and Hyannis

Ropes

Carol- Reviewed status of Ropes Beach and Old Shore Road trees. PJ- A member of his team visited the beach to get updated siting and measurements of the site and he will be talking with Darcy about getting approval for vegetation (beachgrass approval) on May 20th.

Carol- Expressed level of urgency as "beach season" has begun and disappointment that the beach vegetation has not been removed. But understood there had been employment changes that were part of the delay.

Old Shore Road

Carol- She thanked DPW for taking care of the trees that were a site line hazard. The stumps are scheduled for removal too. She cited erosion issues around Hoopers landing ramp. Street sweeping for leaf removal is requested and question if leaves had been done in the fall.

Derek- Erosion may be on Steve Gould's property. He will research further.

Rob- Looking into erosion as well.

Riley's Beach

Carol- Reviewed the situation. Can DPW maintain?

Derek- There are conservation restrictions on what can be removed, no seaweed for example.

Rob- Only trash removal is permissible.

Loop

Carol- Asked about bath house and portable restrooms.

Mark M., DPW- Challenges with where funding can come from, ADA and flood plain issues. Staying within footprint of existing building is a possible way around.

Mark Els- DPW needs to assess what is possible in the long term. Need and ADA solution in the short term.

Traffic/Signs

Carol- Expressed appreciation for the actions on sign removal and new beach sticker required ones at Ocean View and Cross Streets, that came out of last year's meeting.

Seth- Village believes we have plenty of signs.

Carol- Cited new MA law that would allow the Town to reduce speed limits in the Village independent of MassDOT.

Troy- Confirmed and outlined issues and new process. If requests coming from Cotuit they should come from the Civic Association and assure that it's not just a handful of citizens in favor of.

Rob- Often the traffic studies show that actually a high percentage of folks are complying with the speed limit.

Troy- Anecdotally, it's been 85% in on Main and Putnam.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Philip Odenca, Secretary