



P.O. Box 121
Cotuit, MA 02635

Minutes

Concerns of Cotuit Meeting, Monday April 28, 2025 8:30 AM

Freedom Hall

The annual Concerns of Cotuit meeting between the members of the Executive Board of the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association and members of management of the Town of Barnstable was held on Monday, April 28, 2025.

CSCA members present: Carol Zais, Dave Fravel, Lisa Vasiloff, Lisa Nagel, Karen Teeley, and Phil Oden on Zoom.

Town of Barnstable: Mark Ells, Town Manager, David Anthony, Dir. Asset Management, Dan Santos, Director of DPW, Kelly Collopy, DPW Director of Communications, Derek Lawson, Director Marine and Environmental Affairs, Lt. Kevin Fulham BPD, Marcus Cunningham BPD traffic, PJ Kelliher, Supervisor, Structures and Grounds, Mark Marinaccio, Town Architect, Jim Kupfer, AICP, MPA, Director of Planning and Development, and Chris Gonnella, Director of Community Services.

Carol began the meeting at 8:35 and welcomed everyone, expressing the Association's appreciation to the town management for their attendance. After each attendee introduced themselves, Carol showed the *Do you know Cotuit* pamphlet if anyone wanted more information on CSCA. Also, she mentioned the Cotuit Currents newsletter and the deadlines for submissions and encouraged ToB submissions.

Carol then began the discussion of the 3 major concerns.

#1 Renovation of Memorial Park.

Mark Marinaccio reviewed the most current Memorial Park design and reported that the design will be presented to CPC, April 28, 2025. The design proposal will address several issues including re-routing the walkway to make it ADA accessible. They are looking to move the flagpole to align with the stairs coming from the library. The existing trees have been deemed in poor shape by the ToB

tree warden and will be replaced. There will be improvements to the planting beds along Main Street. They are waiting for final funding approval to present the design to the library and the church, as there is no impact to those areas.

David Anthony discussed the challenges of the encroachments of the playground and library driveway and parking to the Town owned land. Park lands are protected by the State and it is not easy to change plot lines. The ToB is working to find a way to “license out the encroachment lands” for use by the Preschool and Library. They are still working out the details of who will be a point person and who will be responsible for liability issues for each of those encroachments. Also, there is awareness about balancing the aesthetic “look” of the playground with current playground safety requirements and this is being considered. The additional encroachments near the business will also be addressed by his office.

#2 Restoration, Maintenance and Support at Cotuit Beaches

PJ Kelliher reported that **Ropes Beach** will be cleaned on an on-going basis. Carol expressed appreciation for the work done to date and is appreciative of being added to the regular maintenance program for vegetation removal.

The bath house assessment at **Loop Beach** is currently part of a planned town-wide study, including 5-6 other dated beach bath houses. The study is expected to be funded on July 1, 2025.

Dan Santos reported that the status of the boat ramp at **Hoopers Landing** on Old Shore Road. It is not scheduled for replacement. It needs to be assessed to see what repairs, if any, are needed. It is felt the ramp is in good shape but they will look at it more closely and the road erosion near the ramp, which may be on private property.

Carol reported that CSCA will no longer be doing any beach clean-up events. We will stick to just the roads and are currently permitted to do our annual roadside clean-up on Mother’s Day weekend. Dave Anthony reported that he is starting to coordinate numerous community organizations who want to do beach clean-up and there is a special events permit process. Carol mentioned a photo of a flyer, that was posted at Ropes beach with a number of organizations listed, that were planning a beach clean-up day. She will forward a copy to David Anthony, Dan Santos, PJ Kelliher and Derek Lawson.

Only **Loop Beach** is raked regularly by machine (on Thursdays, during summer season). But the machine cannot access the other beaches. No hand raking is done on any beaches. No seaweed removal is allowed ever. DPW empties the trash bins and big belly receptacles throughout the year.

The dogs-on-Oregon-beach trial policy was apparently a success and it will continue, along with a number of other beaches in the ToB.

#3 Cotuit School Fields

The ICON presentation on the three options for the school property use was presented to the village recently on 4/25/25. The next step is a vote at the Annual District Meeting on May 28. The question remains as to what to do about the fields along with the town- who owns the other 5 acres- that meet the needs of the village. This will be a future conversation once the CFD finalizes its plan for the school.

Still needed are future conversations to discuss overflow parking for the Kettleers games, 4th of July parade, and the Craft Fest every August.

The mowing schedule from last year was successful and will be repeated this year, the town will do the mowing before and after the Kettleers season, but the Kettleers athletic association will do the mowing during the baseball season.

David Anthony mentioned that pothole repair is currently scheduled for the pothole near the Main Street entrance drive of the school property. Carol will reach out to the Prudential committee to inquire about any pothole repairs interest for the Old Oyster side of the shared drive.

Recurring issues for ongoing consideration

Carol asked for an update on the **CWMP** plan as it relates to Cotuit. She also mentioned how great and knowledgeable our Water Commissioner are and Cotuit is very concerned not just on the nitrates to the Bays but our CFD wells for drinking water. The Town is currently conducting a 5 year update and Dan reports that he communicates regularly with Scott Horsely, Cotuit Water Commissioner, who is on the ToB committee. Alterations proposed by the ad hoc committee to move up the water plan for Cotuit are still in conversation, but it looks like Cotuit may see some changes before the originally planned Phase 2 and Phase 3 because swearing may be coming down Rte 28 sooner. We still need to meet the Federal sewer requirements of the Clean Water Act so I/A septic and local treatment plants may not be enough.

Speed bump on Main Street near Old Shore Rd is scheduled for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026. Carol asked why it is taking so long. Dan did not want to look back and is focused only on moving forward.

A new **sidewalk will be extended** on Lowell Ave from Main Street to Kettleers Park (northeast corner) to assist with pedestrian traffic from the Cotuit School

parking for Kettleers games. Carol noted this is moving very quickly as the request was just made in Spring 2024.

There was a lively discussion about **signs** throughout the village, and that there are too many signs. Mark Els suggested that an image of where all signs currently are located be completed and then we can schedule a meeting with clear objectives about what signs are needed or not, and then possibly extra signs can be removed. Mark Els recommended using the Report a Problem section on the ToB website (or app). That button on the website says use email@town.barnstable.ma.us to report a problem.

Regarding **reducing the speed limit**: The town council can now change the speed limit from 30 to 25, but it may not be enforceable. Town Councilor Kristin E. Terkelsen is currently pursuing this issue and it was suggested to reach out to her. **OR** a MassDOT study can be requested to measure the speed at certain locations. There is the risk of the speed limit could be *increased* if it is determined that the traffic moves faster on the area being monitored.

Officer Marcus Cunningham reported that there is a place for reporting traffic complaints under the police department website.

Jim Kupfer, AICP, MPA, Director of Planning and Development gave an update on new regulations that effect the town: The **new** accessory dwelling units (ADU) regulations now align with the state allowing both the ADU's and the main home to be rented out at the same time. A new **Digital Equity plan** is in process to provide broadband access to all. Carol suggested that these new items could be put in the next Cotuit Currents to keep residents informed of upcoming changes.

The **Town Dock** study is going to design process. Carol asked if the design was to include a docking area for the CFD fireboat? Carol will update CFD Chief Brown.

The state is reviewing the traffic safety at Rte 28 and Santuit-Newton Rd. No current updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Teeley, Acting Secretary