**CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

**Are held virtually or in person at the discretion of the CAN President**

**CAN Board Meetings are open to the public**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

**Are held virtually or in person at the discretion of the CAN President**

\* \* \* \* \*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March 2, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**Executive Committee Members Present and Voting (Virtually):** Chuck McFadden (President), Tom Puglisi (Secretary), constituting 2 of 4 Executive Committee members present. A quorum of the Executive Committee was not achieved.

**Executive Committee Members Not Present:** Roman Jesien (Vice President) and Jane Weeks (Treasurer).

**Additional Board Members Present (Virtually):** Andre Duerinckx, Rick Klepfer, Susan Olsen, Brad Rice, Sharon Smith, and Judd Vickers.

**Board Members Not Present:** Mary Ellen Jesien and Dave Thatcher.

**Guests Present:**

1. **Opening Comments.** CAN President Chuck McFadden convened the meeting virtually at 7:00 pm. Brad Rice introduced himself as a new member of the Board. He is a retired military IT expert and currently works for Fannie Mae. CAN Secretary Tom Puglisi requested that Board Members acknowledge approval of the minutes for the Executive Committee meeting held on January 5, 2022, which were distributed to Board Members in January and approved via email. Board members concurred with Tom’s request.
2. **Treasurer’s Report.** CAN President Chuck McFadden reported that there is currently $3150 in CAN’s treasury. He announced that CAN is in the process of moving its account to another area bank due to poor service from its current bank.
3. **Secretary’s Report.**  Tom Puglisi reported that CAN currently has 348 members. Chuck McFadden thanked Dave Thatcher, Judd Vickers, and Tom Puglisi for their work soliciting new members.
4. **New Relationship with the Cambridge Spy.**  Chuck McFadden reported that CAN now has a working relationship with the *Cambridge Spy*, a digital newspaper found at <https://cambridgespy.org>. The *Spy* now routinely receives copies of all CAN email distributions and publishes those of interest, with the understanding that anything generated by CAN receives prominent acknowledgement. CAN notes on two City Council meetings and two Board of Education meetings have been published so far.
5. **Dorchester Moving Forward.** Moving Dorchester Forward is a coalition of engaged community members seeking to create collective impact thru: (a) The space for an Ongoing Community Conversation to discuss events that have happened in our community and resource needs that we share collectively, and (b) a sustainable mechanism for dialogue and positive energy to grow organically in changing circumstances. Greg Meekins, Steve Rideout, Chris Wheedleton, and other community leaders are involved in this effort. Chuck McFadden attended the first and second community conversations held by this group. The first meeting clarified that the purpose of the conversations is to highlight issues of concern and address them constructively. The second meeting was devoted to gun violence. Chuck asked for a volunteer to monitor the next meeting and future meetings.
6. **Unmet Funding Needs** It was noted that the City has many funding needs that are not being addressed, or even discussed, by the City Council, even though money appears to be available through unspent ($6M) and anticipated ($6M) COVID funds and a $5.3M unrestricted budget surplus. The Police Chief has stated that the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) is down to 33 officers. Two years ago, they had 50 officers. The last two officers who left went to St. Michaels with a $10,000 raise and less stress. The Salisbury Police Department is offering a $25,000 signing bonus. These salary problems have plagued the CPD and other City staffing for many years. The City is not effectively filling vacant positions either in CPD or in City staffing, so the whole City is chronically understaffed. In addition to low salaries, there may also be a demographic problem that is affecting the job pool whereby young people are simply not attracted to Cambridge. It was noted that the Acting City Manager is not located in Cambridge, the Housing Manager is virtual and part time, and an antiquated sewage system and pumping station resulted in 9 overflows for which the City was fined by the State. Fixing the sewage and pumping problems will cost about $4.5M. The Council is not coming up with solutions for these and other pressing problems.
7. **Reaching Out to Homeowners Associations (HOAs).** Chuck McFadden summarized Brad Rice’s suggestion that CAN reach out to local HOAs to identify their issues of concern and possibly build coalitions. Education and crime are probably the biggest issues at present. Brad Rice and Judd Vickers volunteered to help identify HOA contacts and leaders.
8. **Meeting Reports and Newsletter Articles.** Chuck McFadden and Allison Kennedy are now covering City Council meetings, and Tom Puglisi is covering Board of Education meetings for CAN. Judd Vickers and Sharon Smith continue to cover Planning & Zoning Commission and Historical Preservation Commission meetings, respectively.Nancy Chapman has volunteered to cover Municipal Utility Commission (MUC) meetings. For the upcoming CAN Newsletter, Susan Olsen volunteered to write an article on sewage issues, Justin Todd will provide an article from the Cambridge Police Department, and Brad Rice and Rick Klepfer will also contribute articles. Articles are due to Tom by Friday, March 18.
9. **Spring Cleanup Partnering with ShoreRivers.** In conversations with Chuck McFadden, Matt Pluta indicated that ShoreRivers is now beginning to organize cleanup events. Chuck will coordinate with ShoreRivers for CAN participation. Long Wharf, Great Marsh, and Cambridge Creek will likely be some of the targets. It was noted that Long Wharf looks terrible, and the City needs to take some responsibility for cleanup there.
10. **Annual Business Meeting.** Chuck McFadden will contact the library to reserve the meeting room for the Annual Business meeting in Mid-April. The meeting will be held in person and virtually to maximize participation. Judd Vickers and Tom Puglisi will work on bylaws revisions in time to present at the meeting. Brian Roche will be invited to speak.
11. **Marina Report.** Chuck McFadden will follow up with the Acting City Manager regarding the report generated by the CAN Marina Committee on recommendations for the support needed for continued viability of the Municipal Marina.
12. **Adjournment.** Tom Puglisi made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Andre. The motion was adopted unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.