

# Chat log from the Nov. 9, 2023 Zoom Meeting about the Cotuit Elementary School

18:10:42 From Google Pixel 6a : I'm not getting sound. Does anyone else have that problem?

18:10:58 From jamesdannhauser : I can hear fine

18:11:01 From Anna Dooley : No

18:11:11 From Don Salamack : I can hear

18:11:14 From Patty Daley : Try a diifferent browser...

18:11:17 From Alison L. - MA USA : no sound problem for us

18:11:39 From Derek Silliman : check your own zoom settings and the audio settings on your device

18:17:41 From Kathleen O'Neill : 100% agree w Larry.

18:18:40 From Anna Dooley : Reacted to "check your own zoom ..." with 👍

18:18:53 From Anna Dooley : Reacted to "100% agree w Larry." with 👍

18:21:18 From carolzais : Can everyone please mute

18:21:53 From jamesdannhauser to Cotuit Fire District(Direct Message) : Ask everyone to mute. Background noise is bothersome

18:22:02 From Alison L. - MA USA to Cotuit Fire District(Direct Message) : I was asked to unmute but will wait until it is my turn to soeak

18:22:30 From Evelyn Young : Didn't we buy the property next to the fire department using the same rationalization because the fire department needed it?

18:22:55 From Alison L. - MA USA : Yes

18:23:48 From Chris R : I don't believe there's been any discussion regarding routine costs for maintaining the property once the building is removed(if that is the decision). Liability if open space b

18:24:31 From Evelyn Young : Why can't we demolish the current building and have more time to decide what to build if anything

18:25:21 From Chris R : Oops - back to nature - what expenses would there be to the district?

18:26:20 From Derek Silliman : Please, Prudential

Committee: Please take of the 1school property and the Fire Dept building as two separate issue with separate needs for funds. Didn't the Water Commissioners specifically note that a fire station would be an inappropriate use of the school property because of the water use classification of the area?

18:27:15 From Evelyn Young : Good idea about the gym!

18:28:17 From Evelyn Young : You can play lots of sports in a gym!

18:28:52 From Alison L. - MA USA : who has toured the expanded Federated Church & is familiar with the facilities available to the District/public as community space

18:29:03 From Evelyn Young : Volleyball, badminton, yoga classes, etc.

18:29:10 From carolzais : Indoor soccer, volleyball, pickeball, large meetings,

18:29:41 From carolzais : The Federated Church has limited hours available it is not a catch all for the village.

18:30:24 From Conrad Geyser : Yes to lots of other sports in the gym - I would like access for my frisbee group - we have used the sym for this for many years

18:30:42 From Conrad Geyser : create a committee to work on this

18:31:27 From Evelyn Young : I didn't get why the fire department can't use the property next to it that we already bought for them. How much property do they need?


18:32:12 From Evelyn Young : Gym and the rest natural space with option to expand with pool or other structure.

18:32:30 From Patty Daley : After an RFP answers the question of general costs, we could have an in-person meeting such as a charrett (soliciting input) or a survey to see where interest is?

18:33:07 From Alison L. - MA USA to Cotuit Fire District(Direct Message) : can the chat conversation be downloaded & preserved?


18:35:02 From Eric : Could we use the email lists (From Civic Center) to send a Google Form that gives


checkboxes for the top two ideas they want? A lot of schools use these type of forms to get input.

18:35:42 From Adam Zais : Reacted to "Could we use the ema..." with 

18:36:10 From Jen Smith : Replying to "Could we use the ema..."

Love that

18:36:43 From Adam Zais : Reacted to "I didn't get why the..." with 

18:37:05 From Adam Zais : Reacted to "create a committee t..." with 

18:37:10 From jamesdannhauser : There are already tennis courts and pickleball courts that are on the land that the Town will retain and that will stay there and be available for use

18:39:03 From mark robinson : We already do more than fire and water. We donate to the library every year, we must have amended the enabling legislation to do that. We voted to donate to the historical society last year. Are we amending the enabling act to do that?

18:39:38 From Evelyn Young : I think the rest of us need to understand what is wrong with the current fire house. Agree about keeping open space.

18:39:42 From Jen Smith : Replying to "We already do more t..."

And Freedom Hall, too.

18:40:54 From Rick Stadterman : where is it documented that we need an expanded firehouse? can the the fire chief address this?

18:45:05 From Anna Dooley : Replying to "where is it document..."

There was a full presentation done by the fire chief and commissioner at the 8/23 meeting in freedom hall. a zoom recording is available on the cotuit Santuit website for viewing

18:47:10 From Rick Stadterman : Replying to "where is it docume..."

does it validate that we need an expanded fiehouse

18:49:40 From Alison L. - MA USA : Replying to "We already do more t..."

Freedom Hall is District owned property & there is an obligation to maintain it. The library contribution is a warrant article every year @ District Meeting, not sure about historical

18:51:31 From Evelyn Young : Agree with deciding about the future and protecting water supply.

18:53:04 From mark robinson : Replying to "We already do more t..."

yes, we vote on the library every year, but spending district assets on it, rather than just fire and water uses, seems to indicate that the District can legally broaden its purposes.

18:56:26 From carolzais : Replying to "We already do more t..."

The Library funding and war memorial funding happened in ~1940-1951 when the enabling legislation was expanded thru the Massachusetts state legislature. It is a multi step process to do it again but it is doable

18:57:04 From carolzais : \*do-able

18:57:42 From Kathleen O'Neill : Replying to "We already do more t..."

I think it was 1949. Is there support for amending the enabling legislation at the state level? I'm not sure there is, though I could be wrong.

18:58:22 From Evelyn Young : My questions have been answered. Thank you.

19:00:11 From Dake Henderson : Replying to "We already do more t..."

Returning some land to open space might also have costs. If the area is left to "return to nature", it is highly likely that non-native invasive species would predominate, and the area would be inaccessible to walkers, as well as rather useless for wildlife. Some planning and planting would be in order.

19:00:17 From Alison L. - MA USA : Freedom Hall is very under-utilized historically

19:00:20 From mark robinson : Replying to "We already do more t..."

the point is that yes, our original enabling legislation was limited to fire and water service, but it is disingenuous to say, as we were told at the August meeting, that it is impossible to amend an enabling act. it happens all the time. Witness your comment re library. It is a conversation stopper to say that we must tie our own hands re uses.

19:01:26 From Joyce Picariello : Does it make any sense to form a separate committee, specifically to study and recommend ideas for this that might be more representative of the community at large?

19:01:52 From Jessica Rapp Grasseti : It was my understanding the Prudential Committee asked for alternate to demolition proposals from the villagers months ago. Have there have been any submitted in writing?

19:01:57 From carolzais : Replying to "We already do more t..."

There was a non binding article passed at last years annual district meeting as the first step in the process to expand the legislation for HSSC funding. It has since been brought to Kip Diggs attention who has to bring it to the state legislation and I continue to work on this. The water commissioners are also interested in expanded the enabling legislation and now many this property. So they could all be combined.

19:03:14 From mark robinson : Replying to "We already do more t..."

I agree with you Carol.

19:03:15 From Laura Opie : In terms of liability and responsibility, can't that be effectively transferred to a non-profit that manages the property with waivers, contracts, and agreements?

19:05:53 From Laura Opie : One use additional that might be considered for the building is a sail loft (without

washing capabilities). Sewing canvas and sails is a much needed business with very low environmental impact. There is a great need on Cape Cod for more sail and canvas workers, and an educational aspect could be included.

19:13:55 From Jen Nash : What are the next steps after tonight's meeting?

19:16:33 From Alison L. - MA USA : why not just sell the property to this non-profit & get the District out of it?

19:17:17 From Laura Opie : What is the status of the \$200,000 set aside for research?

19:21:36 From carolzais : That's a different attitude to cover expenses

19:24:33 From Conrad Geyser : please repost this email address for input!

19:24:56 From carolzais : But no studies have been done with the \$200K that was voted in for doing studies on the use of the property.

19:25:05 From Conrad Geyser : And can we schedule a walkthrough? I am happy to organize

19:26:14 From Rick Stadterman : Seth, what is the stated position/

19:26:43 From carolzais : Please post the email in the chat

19:27:31 From Patty Daley : It's a difficult forum to discuss this in. There are options to reach out.

19:28:00 From Cotuit Fire District : Submit email inquiries to Mark Lynch at [mlynch@cotuitfiredistrict.org](mailto:mlynch@cotuitfiredistrict.org)

19:29:30 From Mike Curtis to Cotuit Fire District(Direct Message) : Thank you Mark and Fran and Zeth you have done a great job appreciate all you do !

19:30:06 From Seth Burdick : Replying to "Seth, what is the st..."


It is that we as a committee are inclined to demolish the school and have it remain open space

19:32:49 From Jessica Rapp Grasseti : Replying to "Seth, what is the st..."

My recommendation is for the Prudential Committee to draft a warrant article to demolish and call a special meeting to

bring it to a vote.

19:32:52            From David Johnson : To the points made by the last few commenters, to provide the Prudential Committee with direction, I suggest a townwide mailing that summarizes the options, provides web addresses for additional information, and a firm date for feedback to the Prudential Committee so they can move the process forward based on the consensus of opinions provided up until the selected date. The Civic Association does a very good job of communicating via a newsletter through the US Mail and I think the Prudential Committee would benefit from the same.

19:34:14            From Dake Henderson : Reacted to "To the points made b..." with 

19:34:30            From Adam Zais : Reacted to "To the points made b..." with 