

Town of Truro

Town Manager's Weekly Report

May 1, 2020

Announcements:

- **A Special Note from the Truro Health Department:**
Please help in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by limiting movement outside of your homes beyond what is absolutely necessary to take care of essentials. We expect to see an increase in community spread, especially over the next two weeks. If you do need to go out, we advise you to wear a mask, maintain 6 feet social distancing, and follow good hygiene practices. While there is no need for panic, we want to highlight the seriousness of the pandemic. Our community WILL benefit from your decision to take precautions.
- **The Board of Health issued an order requiring that face masks be worn in public areas of Town. Fabric face masks are now required in addition to social distancing, to protect all members of the public at all places that are allowed to be open, and all housing or commercial complexes with more than 1 unit. (see more in the Health Department's report below).**
- **Governor Baker has extended his Order closing non-essential businesses and the prohibition on gatherings of 10 people or more until May 18th. The Stay-At-Home Advisory is also extended to May 18th. All non-essential businesses as previously defined must remain closed until May 18th.**
- Travel Guidance released by Governor Baker directs that, beginning March 27, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Visitors are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms. Health care workers, public health workers, public safety workers, transportation workers and designated essential workers are exempt from this requirement.
- Citizens can view virtual meetings on Channel 18 in Truro and on the web on the "Truro TV Channel 18" button under "Helpful Links" on the homepage of the Town of Truro website. Click on the green "Watch" button in the upper right of the page. Please note that the meetings are held remotely, and you may only hear audio. For more information on remote meetings, please [click here](#).
- Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Truro's Annual Town Meeting is postponed to June 23, 2020. Truro's Annual Election is postponed to June 30, 2020.
- The Town of Truro posts updates about the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town website. Please [click here](#) for our COVID-19 Information Page. The COVID-19 Information Page button is now more prominent on the home page of the Town of Truro website.
- Paving will begin Monday on Castle Road. Castle Road will be closed to through traffic.

This week's activities of note from the Town Manager's Office:

- Beach Parking areas and beaches remain open for all Town and CCNS beaches. Please continue to social distance and please do not litter.
- I met virtually again this week with department heads and other key staff to discuss budget impacts of the pandemic. We also discussed plans for re-opening Town buildings. Staff is considering a variety of scenarios and how to adjust operations accordingly. As we receive more guidance from the Baker-Polito Administration, this will help us narrow our focus.
- The Truro Select Board voted to extend 2020 second half real estate and personal property tax payment and exemption deadlines to June 1, 2020 due to COVID-19. For more information, [click here](#).
- Please remember: **Short-term rentals of any kind are non-essential and are not allowed until at least after May 18th (unless the rentals are for healthcare workers or other essential workers).** This is actively being enforced. Non-compliance will result in issuance of a Cease and Desist Order, non-criminal violation citations and fines. See Health Dept guidance [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

- Monday, May 4, 2020 - Conservation Commission Remote Meeting @ 2:00pm
- Tuesday, May 5, 2020-Select Board Executive Session @ 1:15pm
- Tuesday, May 5, 2020- Select Board Remote Meeting @ 2:00pm
- Tuesday, May 5, 2020-Board of Health Remote Meeting @ 4:00pm
- Wednesday, May 6, 2020-Planning Board Remote Meeting @ 6:00pm

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Department News:

Fire Department

- Day to day operations at the Fire Department are status quo. Staffing is at full complement with all apparatus in service. The building is still closed to all non-essential traffic.
- The State has suspended all inspections. If you are selling your home or looking for occupancy on a new home, please call the station for guidance. Other permit applications for service can be conducted over the phone.
- Should you have an emergency, please dial 911. We also ask that you self-disclose to our staff if you believe you have been potentially exposed for whatever reason: travel, contact, or other means.
- We encourage you to stay informed, the State's 211 service has up to date information that is available via phone or online at 222.mass211.org.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is another valuable resource <https://www.cdc.gov/>

DPW

- Paving will begin Monday on Castle Road. Castle Road will be closed to through traffic.
- To address COVID-19, custodians continue to take special care of all entry ways and commonly used areas. Additional surface and hand sanitizer products have been ordered. We also expect additional supplies to arrive soon.
- The DPW will continue throughout the emergency event with standard staffing levels in all areas. DPW Highway crews will continue with routine springtime clean up and beach and park setup.
- In response to the circumstances related to the CORONA VIRUS/COVID-19, we have developed a response plan to maintain modified operations implemented at the Transfer Station.
- **Please note: to avoid large crowds, we recommend avoiding the Transfer Station during the following peak hours of traffic. Weekdays from 11AM to 2PM, and Weekends from 11AM to 2PM.**
- DPW crews continued this week with street sweeping and cleaning waterways. Due to the frequent heavy rainfall, all Town dirt roads have been regraded a second time this quarter.
- All DPW staff have been directed to wear masks while out in public, whether they are working alone or together, while practicing social distance.

Health Agent

- Governor Baker's Order assuring continued operation of essential services in the Commonwealth, closing certain workplaces, and prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people has been extended until May 18. This has precipitated another wave of questions from the public about rentals and campgrounds, for both immediate and summer scenarios. We are fielding them as best we can, but we do need further guidance from the State to address some of those questions. They are questions shared by other communities.
- We have received guidance from the State about Farmers Markets. We have reviewed a proposal from the Truro Farmers Market within the context of the guidance and are working out some of the details with Sustainable Cape that will allow them to proceed with their opening plans.
- The Board of Health held an extra meeting on April 30th and adopted an Order requiring face masks be worn in public areas of Town. Fabric face masks are now required in addition to social distancing, to protect all members of the public at all places that are allowed to be open, and all housing or commercial complexes with more than 1 unit. In the Order we specifically require a cloth face mask be worn, not a surgical or N-95 mask. We also provide details about how to wear, wash and make fabric face masks. There are enforcement details specified in the Order to include non-criminal violations with the standard provision for fines. Enforcement will be done by the Health Department and the Police Department. The Order is in place today, May 1. Our present task is to disseminate this information to the public and the essential businesses.
- The Conservation Commission will hold their monthly meeting remotely on Monday, May 4.
- The Board of Health is scheduled to meet remotely on May 5.

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- Our Facebook page (Truro and Wellfleet Health Department) is up and running! We hope you will check it out.

Harbor Master/Shellfish Constable

- There have been many phone calls with questions about the status of the boat ramp and shell fishing.
- Harbor Master Jackett put out the rock buoy which is located outside the harbor with the help of Steve Roderick, who dove on an existing block to attach it.
- Harbor Master Jackett is getting some floats ready to put out into the basin mooring field.
- Harbor Master Jackett has been working on the navigational aids to deploy them in the channel.

Recreation and Beach

- We would like to remind the public to continue to practice social distancing while visiting parks, trails, and beaches and that Governor Baker has instructed all travelers to Massachusetts to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Director Clements and Assistant Director Nunes are planning for another online bingo event and another scavenger hunt.
- The department would like to thank everyone that participated in the Birthday Caravan on 4/29/20 (picture attached). Contingent on registrations, this event will be held through May 18th. For more information or to sign up, visit www.trurorec.com.
- The Truro Community Center is closed but staff can still be reached by phone (508) 487-1632 or email at dclements@truro-ma.gov
- Recreation staff have been meeting daily online via Microsoft Teams.
- Rec. & Beach Director Clements and COA Director Briscoe are meeting weekly via Microsoft Teams.
- Department held an online Youth Bingo.
- Director Clements met with Conservation Agent Beebe to review ORV corridor.
- Puma Park Playground is currently closed to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.
- Department staff have been taking webinars and online trainings.
- All programming is suspended to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.
- Community Center staff will be participating in Walk Massachusetts to earn money for the COA.
- Department is working with Fire Department to schedule CPR/1st Aid/Stop the Bleed training for seasonal staff.

Suspended Activities

- Walking Group
 - Tuesdays 9:00 am
- Indoor Walking
 - Various times at the Truro Community Center
- Zumba Fitness
 - Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 am – 9:30 am at the Truro Community Center
 - Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am at the Truro Community Center
- Community Pickleball
 - Mondays: 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Truro Community Center
 - Thursdays: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Truro Community Center
 - Fridays: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Truro Central School
 - Saturdays: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- Adult Indoor Soccer
 - Monday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- Community Volleyball
 - Wednesday 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- The Truro Beach Office is currently closed and is tentatively scheduled to reopen on June 13, 2020.
- For inquiries about the beaches, please call (508)487-1632.
- Beach stickers are no longer required to access Truro beach parking lots. Beach stickers will be required

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on June 20, 2020.

- 2019 Truro ORV stickers can be purchased online at www.trurorec.com
- Truro beach fire permits are currently suspended.
- Warning – Recent shark sightings, practice shark safety.
 - Don't swim where seals are present.
 - Don't swim too far from shore.
 - Swim in groups.
 - Avoid wearing shiny jewelry or other accessories (which look like fish scales to a shark).
 - Avoid surfing alone.
 - Avoid areas with signs of baitfish or fish feeding activity – watch for diving seabirds.
 - Be aware that sharks may be present between sandbars or near steep drop offs.

Council on Aging

- COA staff continuing to handle all incoming calls and emails.
- COA staff are calling all elders of concern, center participants, all older adults in the community, and responding to all requests for help/information.
- COA staff participating in online staff development trainings.
- Director Briscoe is coordinating with participants and instructors to offer programming online and local TV.
- COA and Rec department exploring multigenerational online programs.
- COA staff continue to collaborate with Good Neighbor-Truro volunteer group.
- Director Briscoe continuing Live Facebook Dialogue with the Director M, W, F @ 10:00am.
- Director Briscoe continues participating in Lower Cape Outreach Council Food Pantry distribution weekly through May.
- COA Director conferencing with COAST (Councils on Aging Serving Together), Barnstable County Human Services, Elder Services, SHINE, and CCRTA to coordinate efforts to meet the needs of Cape Cod's older adult population.
- COA staff working with Community Kitchen to provide hot meal to older adults on Sundays. More than 130 meals were provided last week.

Library

- Library staff members are busy making plans for resuming certain library services in a mindful, safe manner. The entire staff is engaged in the process and have made thoughtful contributions.
- Library phone and email are answered, and certain patrons have been contacted and checked on.
- Staff has been getting some great training and education, something that time has not always permitted.

Planning

- Town Planner Ribeiro is preparing for virtual regulatory Board meetings to resume and is continuing to work on ongoing projects.

Assessing

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Select Board adopted local options that allows bills due to the Town with a due date of March 10, 2020 or later to be due on June 1, 2020. This includes 2nd half Real Estate Tax bills and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax bills with a due date of May 1, 2020, which are now due June 1, 2020. Also, FY20 Statutory and Residential Exemption Applications-previously due April 1, 2020 are now due on June 1, 2020. Please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office with any questions at 508.349-3004 x 116 and we will be happy to assist.