

Town of Truro

Town Manager's Weekly Report

May 15, 2020

Announcements:

- The Town of Truro posts updates about the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town website. Please [click here](#) for our COVID-19 Information Page. Please visit the website for the most current information on Truro and State Guidance.
- **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. The order is available [here](#).**
- **Governor Baker issued an Order effective Wednesday, May 6 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. You can view the Order [here](#).**
- 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.

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 again this with Department Heads to discuss re-opening plans for the Town. We continue to explore ways to set up the buildings and workspaces to make them as safe as possible for employees and visitors on Town property. Additionally, we have staff sub-groups that are meeting to review specific areas of concern, including beach operations and harbor operations.
- We urge citizens to complete the 2020 US Census. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone or by mail. For more information visit [here](#).
- Early Voting by Mail is available now for the Truro Annual Town Election. We encourage all registered Truro voters to vote by mail to ensure the safety of our election workers and the general public. For more information and to obtain an application, visit [here](#).
- Assistant Town Manager Clark and I attended the Cape Cod Municipal Managers' meeting virtually where shared issues including COVID-19 impacts on elections, town meetings, and beach operations were discussed.
- 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 18, 2020-Zoning Board of Appeals Remote Meeting @ 5:30pm.
- Tuesday, May 19, 2020-Select Board Remote Meeting @ 2:00pm.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2020-Board of Health Remote Meeting @ 2:00pm.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2020-Planning Board Remote Meeting @ 6:00pm.

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Department News:

DPW

- 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.
- **The Transfer Station will remain closed Wednesdays and Thursdays until June 1, 2020.**
- **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.**
- As part of the East Harbor culvert repair project, and in compliance with the Notice of Intent, Noons Landing beach nourishment has been completed.
- Parking lot line painting continued this week for all beach locations and Transfer Station. We hope to complete all parking areas by the end of next week.
- DPW Director Cabral has submitted supporting documents for MVP action grant funding in support of East Harbor culvert repair.
- The survey work began this week as part of the Truro Center Road and Little Pamet culvert projects. Locations for boring and soil samples will be finalized next week.
- Monday and Tuesday of next week we will require a single lane closure for directional drilling on Truro Center Road above the Pamet River culvert. The lane closure is only at that location.
- Wednesday and Thursday of next week we will require a single lane closure for directional drilling on Castle Road above the Little Pamet River culvert. The lane closure is only in that location.

Health Agent

- The week began with release of the Governor's 4 phase approach to re-opening. The phases will progress as clinical data indicates that the prevalence of the virus is decreasing. The effort will be supported by increased testing, contact tracing, isolation support and other measures to keep people safe.
- Phase 1 is the Start phase which will commence on Monday, May 18. DPH has stated that they will release guidance documents that are industry specific. It is Friday as I write this, and we hope to have information released today, but have been informed that it will otherwise be released over the weekend, from DPH to the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB). In addition to the Mandatory Workplace Standards that will be issued to those businesses that are allowed to open with restrictions after May 18, we expect to have enforcement guidance, relative to occupancy and social distancing mandates.
- As we move toward re-opening the discussions continually turn to developing proper messaging to the public at all our public spaces: Beaches and Beach Parking lots, Town Buildings, Businesses, and the Pier. As best we can, we hope to share some messaging with our neighbors to support a strategy of consistency that will educate the public about what behavior we expect from each other in our respective Towns.

Harbor Master/Shellfish Constable

- Work continues in the mooring fields focusing on preparing and launching floats going into the basin.
- Many people took advantage of the big tides this past week to go shell fishing off our bay beaches.
- Shellfish Constable Jakkett worked on shellfish gear, remote set oyster bags, netting and rebar for seed quahogs.

Recreation and Beach

- We would like to remind the public to continue to practice social distancing while visiting parks, trails,

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and beaches and that Governor Baker has instructed all travelers to Massachusetts to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- No decision on the operation of the Summer Rec Youth Program has been made. The Town is waiting for further guidance from the State of Massachusetts and the CDC.
- Director Clements and Assistant Director Nunes are planning for another scavenger hunt.
- The department organized and facilitated a Birthday Caravan on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 (see pictures). 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, or via Facebook, and Twitter.
- Director Clements attended video training, "Smart Practices and ADA Compliance for Parks & Recreation".
- Director Clements and Assistant Director Nunes attended video meeting with other Recreation Departments on the Cape to discuss Summer Recreation programs.
- Director Clements attended video meeting with town staff and officials to discuss the 2020 beach operation.
- Director Clements is working with DPW Director Cabral to discuss beach parking lots, beach portable restrooms, and beach accesses for the Truro beaches.
- 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.

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 not currently required to access Truro beach parking lots. Beach stickers will be required starting 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.

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- 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 remotely and from the office, which is staffed with one person daily.
- COA staff are calling all elders of concern, center participants, all older adults in the community, and responding to all requests for help/information/referral.
- COA staff participating in online staff development trainings.
- Director Briscoe is coordinating with participants and instructors to offer programming online through Zoom, thumbnails for COA website and broadcast on TV.
- COA staff continue to collaborate with Good Neighbor-Truro volunteer group for food, prescriptions, mail etc.
- Director Briscoe continuing Live Facebook Dialogue with the Director M, W, F @ 10:00am.
- Director Briscoe developing online psychoeducational support group via Zoom.
- Director Briscoe continues participating in Lower Cape Outreach Council Food Pantry distribution weekly through May. Food bag distribution 35-50 bags per week.
- COA staff responding to emergency food needs throughout the week.
- 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 320 meals were provided last week.

Planning

- The Town Planner continues to resume the activities of the regulatory boards. The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold their first public meeting via GoToMeeting on Monday, and the Planning Board will hold their second on Wednesday. The Boards have not yet resumed hearings, however staff is continually assessing means to potentially do so. The Zoning Board hearing on the Cloverleaf project, set for Thursday, May 28th, will be continued to a date to be determined. Also, the Planner signed-off on Building 1 of the Tradesmen's Park South project and continues to work on ongoing planning 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.

Attachments

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