

**Truro Board of Selectmen Meeting
Selectmen's Room, Town Hall / Community Center
Tuesday, August 22, 2017**

Members Present: Chair Paul Wisotzky; Maureen Burgess, Jay Coburn, Robert Weinstein, Janet Worthington

Present: Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant; Principal Assessor Cathy Fryxell; Town Accountant Trudi Brazil; Town Counsel John Giorgio

Chair Paul Wisotzky called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Palmer spoke in favor of the residential tax exemption.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Jay Coburn moved to take the appointment of Chris Clark as the next agenda item. Maureen Burgess seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Chris Clark introduced himself and explained his interest in becoming a member of the Local Comprehensive Plan Committee. Selectmen answered his questions about choosing him and about the purpose of the committee. He answered questions from the Selectmen.

Jay Coburn moved to approve the appointment of Chris Clark to the Local Comprehensive Plan Committee. Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jay Coburn moved to consider the Consent Agenda as the next item of business. Maureen Burgess seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The following items were on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Review/Approve and Authorize Signature: Application for a Curb Cut permit-20 Whitmanville Road;
- B. Review and Approve Eversource Rate Increase Letter;
- C. Review and Approve National Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation;
- D. Review and Approve Samaritans on Cape Cod and Islands Day in the Town of Truro, Massachusetts Proclamation;
- E. Review and Approve Reappointments of David Krieger-Dewitt for Agricultural Commission; Jennifer Shannon for Taxation Aid Committee;
- F. Review and Approve One Day Entertainment License for Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer (POCCA) August 31st 6pm-9pm at 11 Shore Rd, Truro Vineyards; and
- G. Review and Approve Board of Selectmen Minutes: August 8, 2017, and August 9, 2017 (Part-Time Resident Meeting).

Jay Coburn moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Wisotzky opened the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Classification and Review and Approval.

RECESS

Maureen Burgess moved to recess and reconvene at the Community Center in order to accommodate the anticipated audience. Jay Coburn seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The hearing was recessed at 5:15 p.m.

HEARING RESUMED

Chair Paul Wisotzky reopened the meeting in the new location and explained why the hearing was moved to the Community Center.

Jay Coburn moved to reconvene the meeting. Maureen Burgess seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Paul Wisotzky explained procedure for the public hearing, the public hearing portion and the final deliberations by the Selectmen. He set ground rules and time limits for speakers.

Principal Assessor Cathy Fryxell and Town Accountant Trudi Brazil presented the information for the hearing: classification of tax rate, open space discount, residential exemption, and small commercial exemption.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Ann Greenbaum said the Truro Part-time Residents Association had received over 150 communications from individuals. Ninety-eight percent the responses opposed the residential tax exemption proposal, she said. She asked that Selectmen postpone the vote. Amy Philbin for Robert Blake; Ellen Freeman; Sam Kafrissen; and Mike Parsonis expressed their questions and their reasons for opposing to the proposed residential tax exemption.

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer and Town Counsel John Giorgio addressed a complaint about compliance with Open Meeting Law by the Board of Assessors.

Further testimony continued with John Marksbury, Michael Tierney, Jennifer Cohen, Peter Weiler reading e-mails from three part-time residents, Fred Bolton, William Forman, Dan Katz, Regan McCarthy, a man with inaudible identification, Kathleen Holme, Lawrence Fisher, Chris Lucy, Bonnie Sollog, Victoria Petersen, Gloria Cater, Kevin O'Flaherty, David Kelly, Carol O'Flaherty, a woman with inaudible identification, Muriel Dempsey, and Alan Francis, all against the proposal moving forward at this time.

Mark Peters commented on the right to express opinion freely. Regan McCarthy responded to Mark Peters perception of the business list on the Part-time Homeowners' website. Keith Althaus expressed reservations about the proposed residential tax exemption, but commented on the difficulty of buying and keeping a home in Truro.

Marjorie Childs, Jane Walsh, Finance Committee Chair Bob Panessiti, an unidentified woman, Fred Todd, Gary Palmer, Glen Parson, Elaine Reynolds, Joan Johnson, and a resident on Cranberry Lane spoke on behalf of the plan.

With the Chair's permission, Regan McCarthy returned to state the opposition of the Part-time Residents.

Chair Wisotzky closed the public comment portion of the hearing.

Town Counsel John Giorgio discussed the process to convert condominiums to year-round. Ms. Palmer said it was possible for condominium owners to become year-round residents. Cathy Fryxell reported on other exemptions that are used by Truro tax payers. She said 302 applications have been made for the residential tax exemption. Attorney Giorgio said the proposal would not affect taxes on businesses. Cathy Fryxell and the Town Manager explained this further.

Jay Coburn moved to close the public hearing. Janet Worthington seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Wisotzky closed the public hearing.

DELIBERATIONS BY THE SELECTMEN

Chair Paul Wisotzky commented on the hearing and the history of the process used to present the residential tax exemption proposal. He explained Town Counsel's advice to the Selectmen for protection against law suits. He questioned the advance involvement by the Part-time Residents' Association before this summer. He stated his reasons for supporting the residential tax exemption.

Jay Coburn added his support for the residential tax exemption with additional information on housing and spoke on services that are provided to part-time residents by the Town. The Selectmen adhere to Open Meeting Law, he said. He said he considers the exemption best for the Town.

Jan Worthington gave some personal history and commented on the degree of divisiveness that arose over the proposed tax exemption. She discussed the plan's benefit for many people. She said it is the right thing to do for Truro.

Robert Weinstein thanked his colleagues for their observations. He discussed his expectation that Selectmen's decisions are not received well by everyone. He said the residential tax exemption was worth trying to help year-round residents.

Maureen Burgess explained her position, which is to serve all the taxpayers of Truro, both full time and part time. She said she had read all the communications that the Selectmen had received. She stated that she did not see how the residential tax exemption (RTE) would create a vibrant community; therefore, she does not support implementing the proposal. She urged the other Selectmen to table the decision. She ended with a quote by a part-time resident who is feeling disrespected by the plan.

VOTING

Robert Weinstein moved to approve a Residential factor of one (1) on the matter of setting a tax rate. Janet Worthington seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

On the matter of an Open Space discount, Robert Weinstein moved to not grant an Open Space discount. Maureen Burgess seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

On the matter of a residential exemption, Robert Weinstein moved to grant a residential exemption at an option of 20 percent. Janet Worthington seconded, and the motion carried 4-1.

On the matter of small commercial exemption, Robert Weinstein moved to not grant a small business exemption. Jay Coburn seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Robert Weinstein moved to approve to authorize Principal Assessor Cathy Fryxell to sign the LA-5 Form on behalf of the Selectmen. Jay Coburn seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

SELECTMEN REPORTS AND TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Robert Weinstein said at his Selectmen's Hour at the Farmer's Market he discussed the residential tax exemption (RTE) with several individuals. There were opinions for and against, he said. He commended the other members of the Board for their efforts on the RTE proposal. Janet Worthington and Jay Coburn also thanked the Town staff and their colleagues on the Board of Selectmen for the work on the RTE.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Rae Ann Palmer reviewed Agenda items for the September 12, 2017 meeting: a public hearing for use at Babe's Bakery, Matrix Consulting for shared services with Provincetown, the review of ten Selectmen Policies, the deed for Cloverleaf Property, a request from Housing Authority, and reappointments.

SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Paul Wisotzky extended his gratitude to the work that staff does every day all year round.


ADJOURNMENT

Jan Worthington moved to adjourn. Jay Coburn seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,



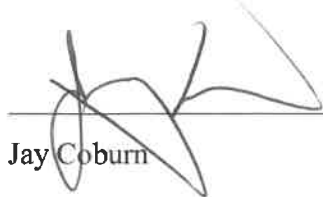
Mary Rogers, Secretary



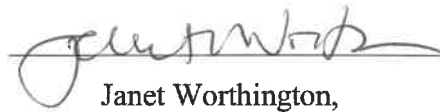
Paul Wisotzky, Chair



Maureen Burgess Vice-chair



Jay Coburn



Janet Worthington,

Robert Weinstein, Clerk

Public Records Material of 8/22/17

1. Chris Clark's application papers for the Local Comprehensive Plan Committee
2. Application for a Curb Cut permit-20 Whitmanville Road
3. Eversource Rate Increase Letter
4. National Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation
5. Samaritans on Cape Cod and Islands Day in the Town of Truro, Massachusetts Proclamation
6. Reappointment papers for David Krieger-Dewitt for Agricultural Commission and Jennifer Shannon for Taxation Aid Committee
7. Application for One Day Entertainment License for Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer (POCCA) August 31st 6pm-9pm at 11 Shore Rd, Truro Vineyards
8. Tax Classification Hearing documents
9. Emails and Letters from TPRTA