

**Truro Board of Selectmen  
Part-Time Resident Summer Meeting  
Thursday, August 9, 2018  
Truro Community Center**

**Members Present:** Chair Robert Weinstein; Maureen Burgess, Kristen Reed, Paul Wisotzky, Janet Worthington

**Present:** Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark; Facilitator Toby Berkman

Chair Robert Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:30 after a 5 p.m. Meet & Greet. He welcomed everyone, introduced the members of the Board, the Town Manager, Assistant Manager and Town Moderator. He noted that numerous Department Heads, Police Lt. Craig Danziger and Fire Chief Tim Collins were present. Chair Weinstein introduced facilitator Toby Berkman of the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), who explained the agenda items and the visioning session on the future of Truro.

**Update on Residential Tax Exemption**

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer noted the presence of the Harbormaster and IT Director and Administrative Assistants Nicole Tudor and Noelle Scoullar. Ms. Palmer presented slides to explain the Residential Tax Exemption (RTE), its place in the Budget process, the tax rate and the method of calculating RTE. She said 330 tax payers had taken advantage of the RTE. At present there are 551 properties are qualified to receive the RTE. Ms. Palmer analyzed this data in more detail with another slide. Valuations are still being determined. When they become certified, the tax classification hearing will be held. At that hearing the tax rate is set. There is a public comment e-mail site available, she said.

**Update on Local Comprehensive Plan Process**

Local Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair Christopher Clark introduced members of the committee. Community outreach is essential, he said. Mr. Clark explained the importance of gathering information from inclusive stakeholders of Truro. He gave an overview of the stages included in the process. Four areas - Energy, Transportation, Wetlands and Water Issues - have already been identified, he said.

**Visioning Session on the Future of Truro**

Facilitator Toby Berkman explained the goals and process for the visioning session. He said the Town was interested in ways to stay in touch with part-time residents throughout the year. A representative from each table was called upon to be notetaker/reporter of discussion among the participants. The starter topic was naming one specific place in Truro that is special and why. Staff and Selectmen circulated among the tables to be a part of the conversation.

Toby Berkman next said to imagine it was the year 2028, asking what values remain and what has changed. After a fifteen-minute discussion period, the next step was to decide at each table what were the top three or four values that the group wanted to be priorities.

Top values reported from the tables included: driving slower, quiet community, maintain small homes, charm, strong unified community, mutual respect among part-time and full-time residents, environmental quality, balance of sustainability and growth, open space, rural character, lack of commercialization, clean water, parking access to beaches (use of Air Force Base), communication, safety, stable rural community, community engagement, enhanced technology, non-tax based revenue streams, energy, equality for all, healthy environment, strong community and character. One group summed it up as: a diverse community that values the environment and the character of its people.

Mr. Berkman said the results will be written up for the Town and the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee. There was one other part to the process: ideas to keep the part-time residents engaged throughout the year. Participants wrote their suggestions on cards.

In a question and answer period, two part-time residents complained that there was not an opportunity for discussion of the Residential Tax Exemption or the marijuana bylaws. Selectman Maureen Burgess offered meeting and hearing dates for the bylaws. The tax rate hearing date is yet to be set. Rae Ann Palmer suggested signing up for automatic notices of meeting agendas. Chair Larry Pisapio of Part-Time Residents Advisory Committee (PTRAC) answered a question on the roles of the Part-Time Residents Advisory Committee and the Part-time Resident Taxpayers Association. He explained PTRAC is just getting organized, but they plan to work with the Part-Time Residents Taxpayers Association. Robert Weinstein explained a legal difference between the two groups since the PTRAC has to abide by Open Meeting Law as a Town committee. The record kept by their minutes is available to all. The original concept of RTEs, according to Chair Weinstein, was developing a mechanism for sustainability through a progressive tax format.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

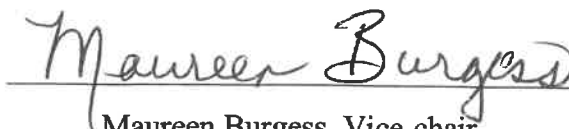
Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary Rogers, Secretary

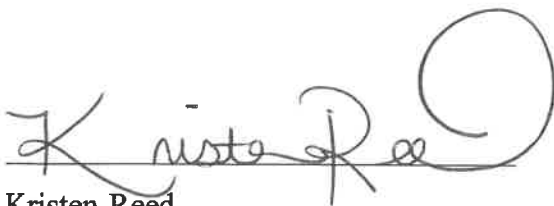




Robert Weinstein, Chair



Maureen Burgess, Vice-chair



Kristen Reed



Paul Wisotzky

---

Janet Worthington, Clerk

**Public Records Material of 8/9/18**

Informational sheets on Residential Tax Exemption

|   |
|---|
| Office of Town Clerk<br>Treasurer – Tax Collector |
| <b>AUG 29 2018</b>                                |
| Received TOWN OF TRURO<br>By _____                |

