



## **TOWN OF TRURO Truro Historical Commission**

### **Truro Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

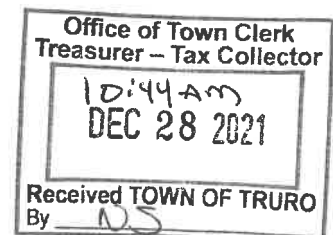
Meeting Location: Cobb Conference Room, Truro Public Library, 7 Standish Way

Date & Time: August 17, 2019, 10:00 am

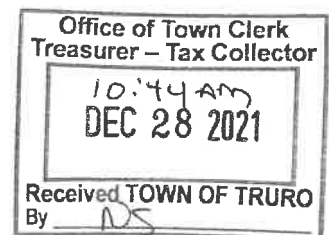
Members Present: Matthew Kiefer, Chair  
Chuck Steinman, Vice Chair  
Fred Todd, Secretary  
Richard Larkin  
David Perry

Members Not Present: David Kirchner  
Jim Summers

1. Approval of Minutes: Members voted to approve the minutes of July 28, 2018 and June 15, 2019.
2. Historic Documents: Richard Larkin asked whether the Commission had any suggestions regarding on-going preservation of Truro's earliest documents; the handwritten records were subject of a recent presentation. They are kept under tight supervision in the town vault. It was suggested that in consultation with the Town Clerk, the official keeper of public records, a qualified paper conservator could be retained to consult on the best way forward. The Historical Society could approach the Community Preservation Commission to obtain funding for a consultant.
3. Edgewood Farm Window Replacement: Castle Hill Center for the Arts completed window replacement at Edgewood Farm and submitted before and after photo and plan documentation to the Commission for approval in accord with the Historic Preservation Restriction. Two members of the Commission conducted a site visit to review the work. We agreed that the work was done to high quality standards and voted to issue final approval of the project and that Matt Kiefer and Chuck Steinman are hereby authorized to sign the Restriction document. David Perry recused himself due to his involvement on the board of Castle Hill; Matt Kiefer moved the motion, Richard Larkin seconded, and Chuck Steinman and Fred Todd joined in voting to approve.



4. **Certificate of Commendation:** As discussed at the June meeting, we agreed that it would be appropriate for the Commission to issue a formal commendation as recognition when a project demonstrates excellence in preservation. Chuck Steinman prepared two certificates for review, one for the window replacement at Edgewood Farm and one for restoration of Haven Cottage by owner Fran Zarette (described in the June meeting minutes). Following a motion by Fred Todd and second by Richard Larkin, all members voted to issue the certificates.
5. **Truro Meeting House Gutter Replacement:** Chuck Steinman described the condition of the old wood gutters at the Meeting House and options for replacement on behalf of the Friends of the Meeting House. Replacement with wood gutters is not feasible; given the geometry of the roof edge and fascia, water overshoots the standard dimension of wood gutters. After review, they are looking at aluminum or fiberglass options and have come up with a layout that reflects the various miters and returns required to match the different roof configurations. The Commission has to approve the work according to the Historic Preservation Restriction. Chuck has a proposal from an aluminum gutter supplier and is getting one for the fiberglass alternative. After discussion, we agreed that the fiberglass gutter would be most appropriate, if it is within the budget, but aluminum is acceptable. Richard Larkin moved the recommendation, David Perry seconded. Chuck Steinman recused and the remaining four members voted to approve the proposed replacement with either the fiberglass or aluminum options, noting that the work is subject to final approval upon completion.
6. **Referral of Potential Demolition Projects:** How and when demolition permit applications are referred to the Commission by the Building Commissioner has been under discussion. The Historic Preservation by law reads that the Chair and Vice Chair are responsible for an initial determination of historical status. There has been a suggestion that as an alternative the Building Commissioner should refer to the Survey of Historic Places — if a property is not listed on the survey, it would not be subject to the Town's by law. We discussed that the Survey is not intended to be a regulatory document — it is subject to periodic updating and certain categories such as mid-century modern houses have not been included yet. The matter has been passed to Town Counsel for review. We discussed whether it would be helpful to request that Matt Kiefer be allowed to consult directly with Town Counsel, lawyer to lawyer. We agreed that the Chair or Vice Chair would discuss this with the Town Manager.
7. **Self-Guided Tour Map:** Chuck Steinman presented a draft of an update of the 1984 tour guide in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing. The guide now includes revised text and an updated map outlining six tour areas noting past historical context and existing structures and landscapes. It still folds into a small pocket sized document. Chuck also plans a on-line version which will include photographs. We commended Chuck for his efforts.
8. **Response to MHC regarding National Register Districts:** In 2017, the Commission sent MHC National Register eligibility district requests for two proposed districts in the Seashore as recommended by our survey consultants — Higgins Hollow/Longnook and Pamet Roads (North and South Pamet Roads). After a long delay, MCH responded with a request for more information, including boundary delineation, intervening properties, contributing and non-contributing properties, additional photos and supporting documentation. Chuck, Matt and Eric Dray (long time preservation consultant to the THC) have been preparing materials to respond. They have assembled data sheets for every property in the proposed districts, attaching assessors' photos and survey data, including all non-contributing properties (defined as those less than 50 years old). It has been particularly helpful to have Eric's involvement, given his experience with both Truro historic properties and with MHC policies and procedures. Once completed, the supplemental information will be submitted to MHC for review.



9. Comprehensive Plan Update: The comprehensive plan committee has not yet reached the section on historic and cultural resources. Back in 2017, Matt Kiefer prepared an outline of updated goals from the 2005 Plan, accomplishments since then and priorities for the future including implementation strategies. We agreed to review and comment on the document in anticipation of eventual presentation to the comprehensive plan group. Fred agreed to check on the status of the Plan Committee and keep other Commission members informed.

10. Cobb Library Gutters: Richard Larkin reported that the gutters are failing and due to be replaced and asked if the Commission had formal review responsibility. There is no Historic Preservation Restriction subject to THC approval for the Cobb. Replacement is a town responsibility, but we agreed that the THC could serve in an advisory capacity if requested.

11. Next Meeting: We discussed two possible dates for a next meeting: September 28 and October 12.

12. Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

Signed,



Frederick Todd

