

**Truro Select Board Emergency Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2020**  
**Truro Town Hall**

**Select Board Members Attending:** Janet Worthington, Chair; Susan Areson, Kristen Reed, Stephanie Rein, Robert Weinstein

**Attending:** Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark; Police Chief Jamie Calise; Fire Chief Timothy Collins; Health Agent Emily Beebe

Chair Janet Worthington called the emergency meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer explained that the meeting was being held via conference call since Governor Baker has suspended open meeting law attendance regulations. She identified those physically present: Janet Worthington, Police Chief Calise, Fire Chief Collins, Health Agent Beebe and herself. The other Select Board members attended by phone.

Ms. Palmer reported on the staff meeting held in the morning. At that meeting, they planned for who would need to stay working at Town Hall. Those staff members will rotate their schedules to maintain coverage. All Town buildings except the Public Safety Facility will remain closed to the public. KP Law recommended postponing regulatory board meetings and hearings for 90 days. Health Agent Emily Beebe said that will need the cooperation of the applicants scheduled to appear at the hearings. Lock boxes at the Public Safety Facility and Town Hall are being installed for permit applications. More information on them will be posted on the Town website. Inspection requests should be called in to schedule appointments. The Council on Aging will keep staff to provide phone coverage. The St. Patrick's Day dinner will be handled through pickup and delivery of the meals. The COA will continue lunches by pickup and delivery services. Ms. Palmer said that the Central School plans to continue their breakfast and lunch program, but citizens should check the School website for details.

The Town Manager said she is proceeding on a day by day basis. At this time, she anticipates that everyone will continue to work. Fire Chief Timothy Collins said rescue responders and Lower Cape Ambulance have been planning protocols for suspected COVID-19 cases. They will screen callers and keep anyone who arrives at the Public Safety Facility in the lobby. Firefighters will respond to calls, put on their protective gear and perform needed action. Police Chief Calise said their protocols for cleaning the Public Safety Facility lobby, offices and police vehicles will comply with state guidelines. He said all meetings at the Public Safety Facility have been cancelled.

DPW Director Jarrod Cabral has provided extra shifts to maintain cleanliness at the Public Safety Facility. Otherwise, DPW will continue work on their other outdoor maintenance projects. The Swap Shop is closed, but the Transfer Station remains open five days a week.

Kristen Reed asked about the impact on Select Board meetings and Town Meeting. Ms. Palmer said the Select Board will meet on March 24, 2020, but, with suspension of open meeting law regulations, it will be held with Comcast business phone conference calling.

Susan Areson asked about care for the senior population. The Police Reassurance calls and the COA's Elders of Special Concern calls continue, Ms. Palmer said. Transport has been suspended, but the COA will consider needs on a one-by-one basis or try to arrange for a VNA nurse visit. Ms. Palmer said that the staff will try to work with the Food Pantry managed by the Lower Caper Outreach Council so that people can still get the food.

The Truro Public Library will take online orders for books, and people can arrange to come get them. Susan Areson asked if volunteers could deliver books and food if there are no liability issues. Janet Worthington suggested coordinating deliveries with Fire, Police and the COA.

Stephanie Rein said that the farmers have spring produce they are willing to donate to people and wanted to coordinate with the Food Pantry and COA. Drive-by pick-ups were a possibility. Ms. Palmer recommended that the farmers meet with the School, the COA and the Food Pantry to avoid duplication of effort.

Rae Ann Palmer and Janet Worthington discussed concerns about seniors. Ms. Palmer said the Town does not release the names of people who receive calls. Ms. Worthington said the people who go to the COA for a sense of community may be alone and afraid. She sought ways to reach out to all elders, not just the ones on the call lists. Ms. Palmer said she would work with the COA staff on ideas to combat isolation. Ann Greenbaum described a neighborhood plan organized by "What can you offer/What do you need" lists. Emily Beebe cautioned that new rules would make listed childcare items a problem. Ms. Greenbaum agreed but said that shopping for a neighbor would be useful.

The Select Board and Ms. Palmer planned another meeting for Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 3 p.m. at Town Hall. This meeting will be posted, Ms. Palmer said. Kelly Clark will post the meeting and latest information on the Town website, and David Wennerberg will place the announcement on cable TV. Robert Weinstein asked about using Lower Cape TV to film Select Board meetings, but since Nauset High School is not open, staff is unclear if they are available.

Susan Areson and Janet Worthington said that all Truro restaurants, including the Box Lunch, are closed except for take-outs. Susan Areson suggested support for restaurants by purchasing gift cards.

The Fire and Police Chiefs said they are keeping in touch with other fire and police organizations and trying to stay on top of the changes to dispatch. Their biggest challenge is obtaining needed supplies. Susan Areson asked about volunteers helping with the Fire and Police Departments, but Ms. Palmer said volunteer efforts should only be done through the COA. Emily Beebe suggested that anyone with medical expertise should offer to help through Barnstable County Department of Health, which is a part of the Infectious Disease Reporting System. The County is now offering doctor-recommended COVID-19 testing. Ms. Palmer noted that there is no reporting mechanism for those practicing self-isolation.

Robert Weinstein moved to adjourn. Stephanie Rein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,


  
Mary Rogers,  
Secretary

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Janet Worthington, Chair

  
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Susan Areson

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Kristen Reed, Clerk

  
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Stephanie Rein

  
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Robert Weinstein, Vice-chair

