

**Truro Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Remote Meeting**

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; Health Agent Emily Beebe; DPW Director Jarrod Cabral

Chair Janet Worthington convened the meeting at 2:07 p.m. The regular meeting was being broadcast live on Channel 18 Local TV and the live streamed on the Town website. Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark gave the instructions and phone numbers for citizens to participate in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Worthington explained the Select Board's letter to the editor of the Provincetown *Independent*, which was posted on the Town website, and the editor's response. Any further discussion and action would have to be a future agenda item, she said. She thanked all the people who are working very hard to get through this Covid-19 period, particularly, Rae Ann Palmer, the staff, David Wennerberg, the Police, the Fire, DPW and citizens. She appreciates all of them and recognized the difference they make. Susan Areson agreed to let the Select Board letter on the Town website speak for itself despite the *Independent* editor's reply about reasons for not printing it in the paper and his request for a link from the Town website to the editorial in online edition of the newspaper. Stephanie Rein thanked Town employees at Town Hall, the COA, DPW, Police, Fire/Rescue, Recreation, the Library and the Truro Central School, who continue to work for the community. She acknowledged with gratitude the many others in banks, restaurants, farmers, fishermen, educators, administration, fuel delivery and the press, who are striving to help the community in these trying, unprecedented times. She said she has witnessed neighbors helping neighbors gifting home-made masks, offering a roll of toilet paper and bringing supplies from the store. "We are all doing our part," she said. Ms. Rein has observed proper social distancing at the post office and the beach. She reminded people to continue social distancing as they get out more with better weather. She stated it was a not time to focus on differences because we are all in this together. The choices that people make impact the whole community. She urged people to stay home and stay safe because it will save lives. Robert Weinstein agreed that the Select Board's letter to the editor of the *Independent* was sufficient response. He thanked all Town staff who continue to help and gave particular mention to the Fire Chief, who had helped with power restoration in the middle of the previous night's storm. Kristen Reed echoed thanks to all employees with special praise for Kelly Clark, who has helped with GotoMeeting technology, and her responsiveness to the Select Board.

There were no callers with public comment, but DPW Director Jarrod Cabral and Police Chief Jamie Calise were standing by to give their updates.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Health Agent Emily Beebe said she has had many phone calls and e-mails this week. She is enforcing the ban on short-term rentals. The Health Department issued a cease and desist order at the end of the week, and she anticipates more. The Health Department has been contacting people, as best as they can, to ensure compliance. They have been providing guidance and support to concerned neighbors since some of the governor's orders are recommendations that the Truro Health Department cannot enforce. With the warm weather, there are concerns about more people coming to their second homes. Agent Beebe has been working with Provincetown Water Superintendent Cody Salisbury to develop a plan for water turn-on's for owners. She mentioned Governor Baker's guidance about wearing masks in public and places where it is difficult to maintain a six-foot distance. She encouraged everyone to wear their masks as directed. Susan Areson asked about enforcement of Governor Baker's directive to ban short-term rentals. Health Agent Beebe said that there is no way to know if the people staying at condominiums or other rental units are the owners of the property or renters. Her department is reaching out to ascertain the status of the occupants. Much of this has been driven by the neighbors who have contacted the Town Health Agent. Working with the Water Department allows her to get the message out first. Another piece in identifying the occupants of the units has been the help of Ann Greenbaum, who has been checking Airbnb advertising. Ms. Beebe thanked staff who have been providing continued help: Rae Ann Palmer, Kelly Clark, Nicole Tudor, Noelle Scoular, and IT Director David Wennerberg, who has been terrific in his support. Kristen Reed thanked Emily Beebe for the Truro Alerts, which she said were useful and appreciated. She asked about projections for a predicted peak in Covid-19 cases. Agent Beebe said that Truro could be flattening out a little right now, but we will have to wait and see what happens with the return of warm weekends. Ms. Beebe returned to the matter of private ownership of condominium units along Shore Rd. She said the Town is depending upon owners to be in compliance with the short-term rental ban until May 4th. She said the Health Department has been keeping track and is discussing penalties for violations after the fact.

Police Chief Jamie Calise offered his thanks to the officers and dispatchers, who have been tremendously professional during this difficult and trying time. He said the Police Department continues all its regular duties but has been modifying operations as best as they can for safety of staff and the general public. Their goal is to minimize contact while meeting public needs. They have made adjustments as conditions evolve daily. He has been meeting with other police chiefs and public safety leaders in the effort to keep information as up to date as possible. The Police Department has been fortunate in equipment needs since they are stocked properly, he said.

Ms. Palmer said the Fire Chief was not available for his report because he was attending to a medical call. DPW Director Jarrod Cabral gave his report that the Transfer Station was busy, but people were wearing masks. There were no issues there over the weekend. He said they have provided gloves and anti-bacterial sanitizers inside vehicles in use at the Transfer Station to help protect the workers. Transfer Station staff wear masks and gloves. He thanked Chief Collins for providing the masks. He said DPW is keeping up with routine responsibilities, working remotely where possible and maintaining social distancing one hundred percent. He has makes contact with his staff every day. He reported that everyone and their families remain healthy. Susan Areson asked about storm aftermath, but Jarrod Cabral said there were no calls in the night. The road conditions were the same in the morning. Stephanie Rein thanked Jarrod Cabral for

delivering her Select Board packet to her and for all the continued work of staff at the Transfer Station. She asked about the metal pile at the Transfer Station. Mr. Cabral said only solid waste and recyclables are being accepted for now. He said there have been a few things thrown over the gate when the Transfer Station is closed, but that is not something new. Susan Areson asked about food waste. Jarrod Cabral confirmed that food waste is not being accepted right now. He said that yard waste is accepted at the time scheduled on Wednesdays.

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer reported on her phone conference with National Seashore Superintendent Brian Carlstrom, his deputy, his chief ranger and four other Town Managers/Administrators of towns with Seashore property. They discussed the beaches and possible parking lot closures. They had agreed that beaches were people's salvation and solace. As long as people continue to practice social distancing and be careful, the beaches will stay open. They will be monitored, however. Truro will be placing signs to remind people to maintain social distancing. The birthday caravan and the Lower Cape Outreach food pick-up program are continuing, she said.

SELECT BOARD ACTION

Voting Tabulators

Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark reviewed the previous January 28, 2020 vote by the Select Board to use optical scan voting tabulators beginning in September 2020 and discontinue use of the hand-crank voting machine. With the postponement of Annual Town Meeting, she had prepared a motion for the Select Board to rescind their January vote and continue to use the hand crank voting box. There is a deadline that the Town needs to meet to notify the state if Truro is going to change back to the hand crank voting machine. It would be possible to revote on the decision after Town Meeting if the Select Board chooses to do so. Rae Ann Palmer added that the Town has not yet purchased the optical scanner but is approaching the time for that decision. She supported a vote to continue with the hand crank now and go back and reconsider the vote at a later time.

Robert Weinstein moved to rescind the January 28, 2020 vote of the Truro Select Board and to continue the use of the hand crank ballot box voting system. Susan Areson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Tax Payment Dates

Rae Ann Palmer explained that Sections 10-11, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 allows communities and municipalities to extend the date that real estate taxes and personal property taxes are due from May 1st to a date no later than June 1st. It also would allow the Town to extend the date that property tax exemptions, that were originally due April 1, 2020, to a date not later than June 1, 2020. She said that it allows the Town to waive any interest and penalties on personal property and real estate taxes for payment due on or after March 10, 2020 as long as the payment is made prior to June 30, 2020. There will be no implications on the current year's finances if the Town moves forward with this vote, Ms. Palmer said. She recommended an affirmative vote on it because it is meant to help people through the current crisis. Stephanie Rein said she was concerned about language in the proposed motion that directed people to the Town website because not all residents have access to the Internet. She asked about another option for notifying the public. Ms. Palmer said the Truro Alert system will be used. People

who have signed up for AlerTruro will receive the information. It would be difficult and costly to send notification through a mailing, she said. Rae Ann Palmer agreed to see if the message could be shortened to fit on the highway message board in response to a suggestion from Ms. Rein that the announcement be put on the highway message board. Janet Worthington suggested posting the notice at the post office. Susan Areson suggested sending a press release to TV, radio, newspapers and the Chamber of Commerce website, which are places that people from out of town may be checking. Ms. Palmer and Stephanie Rein agreed those suggestions were good ideas. Kristen Reed and Janet Worthington expressed thanks and believed that the Select Board action would help many people.

Susan Areson moved that the Select Board vote, pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 as follows:

The due date for taxpayers to pay 2020 second half real and personal property tax bills is extended from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. The due date for taxpayers to file applications for property tax exemptions is also extended from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Interest and other penalty is waived for late payment of any excise, tax, or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020. The Select Board further votes to adopt the method of notification to taxpayers as notification on the Town of Truro website.

Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Signatory Approvals

Rae Ann Palmer discussed the struggle to get documents signed during the COVID-19 public health emergency. While Town Hall is closed, Select Board members are not able to sign documents. Town Counsel has advised that the Select Board could authorize the Town Manager to sign documents through future motions and to sign previously approved minutes, appointments and licenses. Ms. Palmer provided the list of items that would need authorization for her to sign retroactively. She said that her signature with the notation that she was signing on behalf of the Board would replace the customary signatures of the Select Board.

Robert Weinstein moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the following documents: Minutes from March 19, 2020; Minutes from March 24, 2020; Appointment slip for Elizabeth Sturdy to Board of Registrars; Appointment slip for Molly Stevens for Temporary Assistant Collector; and Transient Vendor Licenses approved March 24, 2020, previously voted by the Select Board; and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Truro Certificate of Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund. Susan Areson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Review/Approve and Authorize Signature: *None*

B. Review and Approve and Hold Seasonal Licenses: Adventure Bound North Truro Camping Area and Adventure Bound Camping Resort at Horton's (Transient Vendor)

Susan Areson asked about the number of employees listed on the campgrounds' applications for food services. Health Agent Emily Beebe said she would check on the number. Janet Worthington said they would hold the item until next week's meeting.

Janet Worthington moved to hold the Consent Agenda till the next meeting. Kristen Reed seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

SELECT BOARD REMARKS/COMMENTS

Select Board members gave brief remarks. Susan Areson said she could not improve upon Stephanie Rein's note of thanks and words of advice that she had given at the beginning of the meeting. She thanked Stephanie Rein for her statement. Kristen Reed advised people to go online to respond to the 2020 Census even if they have not received a mailer yet. Robert Weinstein thanked all his colleagues for their comments and also thanked all Town staff. Janet Worthington reminded people to support the local businesses that are open: Savory, Montano's, Box Lunch, Cape Tip delivery services and Days Market. Stephanie Rein added that Atlantic Spice was doing call-in and pick-up business. Ms. Worthington said Bayberry Gardens was offering curbside pick-up.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer thanked the Select Board for recognizing the hard work of the Town staff. Ms. Palmer said that she is very proud of them. The Police and Fire Department personnel are coming to work and putting themselves at risk every day. She gave kudos to them and the Police and Fire Chiefs and to Emily Beebe for her amazing work. She said Kelly Clark and David Wennerberg continue to keep things moving and the department heads are starting to plan for reopening. She commented on the large number of phone calls and the public's high level of anxiety. She considered Stephanie Rein's opening remarks about staying home and not letting down your guard as the advice everyone should continue to follow.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Rae Ann Palmer reviewed the agenda for the April 21, 2020 meeting: tabled items, the Covid-19 update, dates for Town Meeting and Elections, reducing the items on the Warrant and planning for a Fall Town Meeting. Select Board members offered suggestions for other agenda items. Kristen Reed said the fourteen-day period to reopen discussion of Town Manager replacement procedure was over, and the Select Board needed to do this. She agreed that it would be a three-week period for a discussion at the April 21st meeting. Susan Areson suggested placing it on the agenda for April 28, 2020 because the governor would likely be making his decision about reopening by May 4th around that time. Ms. Areson said she would rather wait for that guidance although she did not like to keep postponing the Select Board's decision. Janet Worthington asked for a preferred date for the discussion, but she agreed that the Board could have a general discussion about process at the April 21, 2020 meeting. Susan Areson suggested setting deadline dates for the Town Manager search process. She said that the governor would be redoing the state budget for the next fiscal year, but she was curious about Truro's budget for the next fiscal year if there are projections for reduced revenue and state aid. Ms. Palmer said that this is an issue to discuss at the next meeting, especially if the beaches are not fully opened and stickers sold on the planned date. She considered what other New England states are doing with stay home orders extended beyond May 4th. She said it would make sense to start developing contingency plans. That will be part of the agenda for April 21st. Stephanie Rein commented on choosing dates for the Town Manager selection process. This will be a part of the agenda, Chair Worthington affirmed. She said she and Rae Ann Palmer had received a note from the Chamber

of Commerce, who want to have a Zoom meeting with business owners, inviting the Town to participate in the discussion of ways to get everyone back open. Ms. Worthington said if they had a date for that meeting before the next Select Board meeting, it could be another agenda item. Kristen Reed mentioned another town's online list of all the businesses that were open. Janet Worthington asked her to bring her that information to next week's meeting. Rae Ann Palmer added it to the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Susan Areson moved to adjourn, and the motion carried 5-0.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rogers,
Secretary



Rae Ann Palmer, Town Manager
Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

Public Records material of 4/14/2020

1. Sections 10 and 11, Chapter 53, Acts of 2020
2. Certificate of Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund Deposit April 9, 2020
3. Seasonal Licenses for Adventure Bound North Truro Camping Area and
4. Adventure Bound Camping Resort at Horton's (Transient Vendor)

