

**Truro Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Remote-Dial In**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2020 @ 2:00PM**

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

**Attending:** Town Manager-Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Clark, Health/Conservation Agent-Emily Beebe, DPW Director-Jarrold Cabral, Town Accountant-Trudi Brazil, Senator-Julian Cyr, Representative-Sarah Peake

**Callers:** Fire Chief-Timothy Collins, Harbor Master-Anthony Jackett, Police Chief-Jamie Calise, Clint Kershaw, Steve Roderick, Eric Jansen

Chair Worthington called the meeting to order at 2:00PM.

Senator Cyr began the conversation, stating that he and Representative Peake are on a virtual road tour visiting all Select Boards this week. He feels it's important to work in collaboration with each other during this cautious reopening phase. He, and Representative Peake, have been working with the Cape and Islands delegation and the Chamber of Commerce of Barnstable County to form a regional reopening task force with participation from Cape Cod Healthcare, municipalities, and representatives from the Cape Cod and the Islands Selectmen and Counselor's Association. This effort is three-fold;

- To ensure that we are providing uniform information to the public.
- To ensure that we are making a strong case for the unique needs of the region, particularly our seasonality.
- To ensure that both businesses and municipalities have the technical assistance and information needed to enable various stages of reopening, when that's possible.

He believes a strong case for seasonality has been made. A working group was established on restaurants, accommodations and tourism, as part of the Governor's opening advisory board, to focus on seasonal areas like the Cape and Islands.

Under the Governor's reopening plan, we are in Phase 1 (this phase started May 18, 2020). There is no firm timeline for each phase and it is based on public health surveillance. Each phase will last at least three weeks and may be longer. Phase 2 would begin no sooner than June 8, 2020. Personal responsibility is paramount in the Governor's plan. The public needs to adhere to the public health precautions that are recommended;

- Covering your nose and mouth when you can't be apart from others.
- Washing hands and surfaces often.
- Keeping your distance.
- Staying vigilant for symptoms.
- When you are sick, stay home.

How the virus will manifest in Massachusetts in the coming weeks, and what will be open and when, will be determined by adherence to the public health guidelines and personal responsibility. Many tourist activities and industries are scheduled to reopen in Phase 2 or Phase 3, including leisure, accommodations, or other activities. The earliest opening date for phase 2 would be June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Senator Cyr expressed that we need more specifics for restaurants, accommodations, and tourism to open.

He also expressed that it is important to share a uniform message. He does not feel the public distinguishes between Wellfleet and Orleans, or Yarmouth and Mashpee, so uniform, consistent information is important. He would like to hear questions, concerns, and needs that municipalities have around enforcement and asked that people rely on himself and Representative Peake as partners.

Representative Peake continued the conversation, stating that since we are dealing with a public health, economic, and mental health threat that it's important as government leaders to work collaboratively together. She told the Board about items she's been focused on;

- She has been in touch with the Lieutenant Governor regarding people whose livelihood is connected to our tourism and economy. She can say with certainty that there is an understanding of that at the State level. Lt Governor Polito chaired the Governor's working group on reopening and helped come up with a lot of the guidelines.
- The Restaurant and Hospitality Group have already met to develop procedures for opening. Representative Peake has heard from owners in her District who are counting on opening in Phase 1, if only for outside dining. These owners are concerned that they may have to wait until mid-June. Looking at the best public health data they have and looking at the metrics established by the Administration to measure our progress, she is hoping our restaurants and lodging accommodations open as expeditiously as possible.
- Ensuring that public health guidelines are modified to reflect changes in the public health data, including positive test rates, number of individuals who have died, and number of patients in hospitals.
- Ensuring safety in the fall. As critical it is to reopen the economy on the Cape, we have to make sure that when September rolls around, all the children will be able to get back to school safely.

Representative Peake has heard from towns about their concern around enforcement. It is understood that the current setup could stretch local resources. When restaurants can reopen, there will be a checklist of protocols. The owner will go through the checklist and then certify that they are complying with the protocols. Enforcement will be triggered by complaints. If there is a complaint from staff or a customer, the local Board of Health and the Health Agent will inspect the business, and may issue escalating penalties and enforcement. Sean O'Brien, of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, has hired three additional people for the summer months who can help with public health inspections.

#### **Questions from Select Board**

Chair Worthington asked, if someone is at a restaurant and observes something that's not correct, who do they call during those restaurant hours? Would it be up to the Town to have extra people to field the complaints or will there be a phone number which people can call? A lot of complaints will be outside of working hours. Representative Peake stated that people will most likely call Town Hall. Some people may email the Select Board. Those people will then be referred to Health Agent Beebe. She doesn't think there's an expectation that there is a 24-hour hotline. If it's after business hours, the issue will have to wait until the next day.

Chair Worthington's second question had to do with the harbor, boating, and charters. She asked what kind of restrictions were in place now, and will be in the future, for people going out on charter boats, or their own boats. Representative Peake answered that charter boats may operate in Phase 1. There are a series of guidelines that charters have to follow regarding masks and social distancing. On the State

website [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening) there is an industry-specific information. Beach regulations are there, boat ramp regulations, cleaning protocols, protocols for churches to reopen, and the like.

Member Areson stated that there are some advisories that seemed to be in conflict. For example, if someone wants to come down for Memorial Day weekend, and owns a second home here, they are advised to quarantine for fourteen days but they aren't going to be here for fourteen days. Secondly, right now the ramp regulations at the harbor say that unless you have a trailer and car licensed in Massachusetts, you cannot use the ramp. She wonders how we can accommodate our taxpaying citizens of Truro who might want to launch a boat there, but don't have cars or trailers which are registered in Massachusetts. Senator Cyr, addressing the second question, stated he's elevated that inquiry to the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Environmental Affairs staff. As for her first question regarding the fourteen-day quarantine, Senator Cyr was speaking with the State Officials regarding further guidance on this travel advisory. Member Areson thinks a Q & A to clarify what can, and cannot, be done during quarantine would be helpful.

Member Reed asked if specific guidelines for businesses opening in other phases will be available for businesses so they can start preparing now, ordering equipment, putting up plexiglass and changing work stations. Representative Peake stated there are a lot of businesses that cannot open until the 25<sup>th</sup> and her understanding was that delay was implemented to give business owners lead time to prepare. Senator Cyr added that there is a COVID-19 Control Plan available on the website which businesses can get now.

Member Weinstein has read Order 33 about charter boats. He's disappointed with the language the State has used. It's conflated the words "must", "may", "require", and "shall". He expressed concern about having readily accessible testing and contact tracing and that the only preclusion for charter boats is that they may not have more than ten people on a boat. He noted that the Select Board voted on Policy 64 which has to do with the wearing of masks, and used the word "requires" on all Town property. That means that masks are required to be worn at the Harbor and the dock. He understands the difficulty of policing. He thinks it's incumbent on legislators and committees to look at the language. He also hopes there is an effort from the Commonwealth to move testing and tracing forward aggressively.

Member Reed noted that she did not see any guidance about Council on Aging, Municipal Buildings, or Public Library, and wondered if there was any information. Representative Peake stated that guidelines are being developed now and the Towns should receive that guidance next week about how to reopen. Town Manager Palmer would like to know how quickly Towns will get the signage which is desperately needed at the harbor and our beaches. Senator Cyr responded that signs around beaches and then boating will be coming as soon as possible. Town Manager Palmer also wished to point out that not all beaches have bath houses. She saw a draft sign which included reference to bath houses and Truro would need something that pertains to portable bathrooms.

Eric Jansen, owner of Blackfish Restaurant, is wondering about support from the Town for non-compliance from customers. Town Manager Palmer stated that the Police and Fire Chiefs, the Health Agent, the Assistant Town Manager, and herself, are having ongoing discussions about enforcement. If something escalated to the point where it was unsafe, to call the Police. Chair Worthington suggested signage that references public responsibility

**Public Comment-None**

### **Covid-19 Update**

Town Manager Palmer updated the Board on what the guidance means for reopening Town Hall. A mass notification, particularly for the construction industry, is being put together to let businesses know what the guidelines are, what the checklist is, and what the State requirements are. A similar notification is being developed for the boating community as well. Health Agent Beebe and Assistant Town Manager Clark are holding meetings with staff. Some work needs to be done to the HVAC systems before reopening buildings. She stated that the community transmission has been low because the people who live here are really careful. Signage and information will help get visitors to comply with the Public Health guidelines.

Health Agent Beebe will be attending a conference call with the Department of Public Health where she hopes to get guidance on childcare, camps, and certain other outdoor recreational facilities. Chair Worthington asked if tennis and pickleball would be discussed. Health Agent Beebe stated the guidance was already out. As long as you are not sharing equipment, those activities can resume. Health Agent Beebe informed that Board that Truro and Wellfleet share two graduate students who are working on signage that would be shared with Wellfleet. Member Areson is concerned about renegade businesses. She received an email from a business in Wellfleet that states they are opening this weekend for patio dining, and she didn't think that was allowed and wants Truro to be prepared. Member Weinstein noted that you cannot safely fit six people, plus a Captain, on a boat less than thirty-feet long. It only takes one outbreak to infect lots of people. He hopes the Health Department and the Department of Public Health will be very careful about how they use the directive words he mentioned earlier. He hopes that any signage the Town is putting forward will be consistent. In something like boating, that signage should be consistent from one community to another.

Town Manager Palmer stated that it is important we have consistent signage across the region. She cautioned that we can give businesses guidance on language for signage, but we cannot make businesses use the signs.

Town Manager Palmer continued by stating that given everything that's going on, they should postpone Town Meeting until the Fall, perhaps mid-September. She'd like to place a discussion for this on the next agenda to choose a new Town Meeting date.

### **Select Board Action**

#### **Temporary Suspension for Alcohol Licenses for Restaurants**

Town Manager Palmer explained that some businesses are only doing curbside pick-up, so they do not want to sell alcohol. The businesses are requesting the Select Board to grant a temporary suspension of their alcohol license so that they do not have to pay the alcohol license fee, and they will not incur a penalty. In the following year, they will not have to start from scratch to obtain their alcohol license. Town Manager Palmer feels the Town has responsible owners, and she recommends the temporary suspension. The Select Board would vote to authorize the Town Manager, as their agent, to approve the temporary suspensions as they come in. Member Weinstein asked if there were businesses that have paid for their licenses already but now cannot use them, and did the Town have something in place where a refund could be issued? Town Manager Palmer stated that most of the businesses that have paid for their licenses already are year-round businesses. The businesses questioning whether they want to use their alcohol licenses are seasonal businesses. The Town doesn't have a mechanism in place to refund monies, from an accounting perspective. If the Board decides they'd like the Town to issue

refunds, then staff can explore how to handle that. Member Rein agreed with Member Weinstein and wondered if someone who held a year-round license but realized they wouldn't be using it during the season would be able to pay a pro-rated rate for the months they aren't selling alcohol. Town Manager Palmer reminded everyone that businesses with alcohol licenses could sell alcohol to go at this point to help mitigate the loss of alcohol revenue. Member Areson asked if all alcohol licenses were in demand and were all taken. Town Manager Palmer stated that in her tenure in Truro, an applicant for an alcohol license has never been turned down. She does not see Member Areson's question being an issue. Member Reed wished to recuse herself from all discussion and voting on this issue.

**Member Weinstein made a motion to authorize the Town Manager as agent of the Select Board to approve the suspension of alcohol licenses at the request of the licensee with no fees or penalties. Member Rein seconded.**

Town Manager Palmer noted there are no limits on seasonal alcohol licenses.

**So voted; 4-0-1 (Member Reed abstained), motion carries.**

#### **Select Board Meeting Schedule Discussion**

Town Manager Palmer stated that the Select Board has been meeting every Tuesday at 2:00PM, and now hold Reopening Task Force meetings as well. Tuesday is the same day that other calls (such as the Department of Public Health calls) are scheduled, which creates a conflict for the Health Agent. She proposed holding Task Force meetings on Thursday afternoons each week and regular meetings on the regular schedule of every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Member Areson agreed with the new schedule but requested for the Board to consider (down the road when things are opened up) that 2 pm might be too early for citizens who may want to listen in, in case people are going back to work.

**Member Areson made a motion to amend the current meeting schedule to hold regular meetings at 2:00PM, dates in accordance with the approved meeting schedule, and to set a weekly meeting of the Reopening Task Force for Thursdays at 2:00PM until such group is no longer required.**

**Member Reed seconded.**

Town Manager Palmer asked how to handle the few of action items for next week. The Board was in agreement to handle those items on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Town Manager Palmer stated the motion could be amended to read, *"To amend the current meeting schedule to hold regular meetings at 2:00PM, dates in accordance with the approved meeting schedule (except May 26<sup>th</sup>), etc.*

**Member Areson stated, "So amended".**

**So voted; 5-0-0, motion carries.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

**Review and Approve 2020 Seasonal Licenses: North of Highland Camping Area (Transient Vendor and Pool Table License); Blackfish Restaurant (Common Victualer); Hillside Farmstand (Transient Vendor)**  
**Review and Approve Select Board Minutes-May 5, 2020 (Regular and Work Session)**

Member Areson noted some typos in the minutes of May 5, 2020 Work Session, and needed clarification on a section of the regular May 5, 2020 meeting minutes. Town Manager Palmer stated that the Executive Assistants would review the recording of the meeting for the clarification, and suggested that Member Areson send her corrections of the May 5, 2020 work session minutes to the Executive Assistants for fixing.

Member Rein had two corrections for the minutes from May 5, 2020. She also expressed concern about approving the Pool Table license at the campground. Town Manager Palmer noted that the pool tables were not opening and the Town will be holding those licenses.

Member Areson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as printed with the amendments that were raised.

Member Weinstein seconded.

So voted; 5-0-0, motion carries.

#### **Select Board Reports/Comments**

Member Reed stated the Commonwealth's website includes a supplies and manufacturers list for protective equipment for business owners and she suggested that the link be added to the Town's Covid webpage.

Member Areson pointed out that she received a notification today that the Town Manager Screening Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. She wanted to let citizens know that work is ongoing.

#### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Palmer reviewed the next agenda for Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the sale of the bonds took place that day. Town Accountant Brazil added that the Town received a good price, but it suggested that the Town go through a bond rating.

Member Weinstein made a motion to adjourn at 3:23PM.

Member Rein seconded.

So voted; 5-0-0, motion carries.

*Meeting then proceeded into the Select Board Work Session.*

*Noelle L. Scoullar*  
Respectfully submitted, Noelle L. Scoullar

*Rae Ann Palmer*

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

#### **Public Records material of 5/19/2020**

1. Email from Whitman House Restaurant Owner, Robert Rice (May 12, 2020)
2. ABCC Notice Extending Ban on Premises Consumption Covid 19 (May 1, 2020)
3. 2020 Truro Select Board Meeting Schedule
4. 2020 Renewal Application and Board of Health Licenses-North of Highland Camping Area
5. 2020 Renewal Application Blackfish Restaurant
6. 2020 Renewal Application for Hillside Farmstand
7. Select Board Minutes of Regular May 5, 2020 Remote Meeting
8. Select Board Minutes of Work Session May 5, 2020 Remote Meeting

