

**Truro Select Board / Reopening Task Force**  
**Tuesday, June 16, 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; Police Chief Jamie Calise; Fire Chief Timothy Collins; Recreation/Beach Director Damion Clements; Town Planner Jeffrey Ribeiro; Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent Brian Carlstrom; Chief Ranger Leslie Reynolds; Bob Montano; Steve Roderick; Jason Silva

Janet Worthington opened the work session at 12:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one called in during the Public Comment period of the meeting.

**DISCUSSIONS**

**Beaches and Ponds**

Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent Brian Carlstrom and Chief Ranger Leslie Reynolds were attending the virtual meeting to discuss the Park's phased reopening plans. Superintendent Carlstrom said that plans are underway for a summer which will be different, "a summer like no other." They are working moment by moment with thought for Truro and the other towns. Their priorities are preventing the spread of Covid-19 and keeping visitors and employees safe, he said. So far, no Seashore employee has had the virus. The visitors' centers remain closed, and the headquarters are operating with 25% occupancy. The Seashore has been following Governor Baker's guidance. The superintendent discussed their problems maintaining porta-potties. Beaches have remained open but without lifeguards. They are aiming to have lifeguard training completed and have them on beaches by July, but there are not going to be guards for all six National Seashore beaches this year. Fee collection at their beaches has been suspended until June 19<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, he said. That will have an impact on how many seasonal employees they will have. The maintenance workers, rangers and officers will have priority for housing. Their programs and tram operations to Coast Guard Beach, Eastham will be limited this year.

Robert Weinstein expressed his concern about the absence of signs at trailheads and ponds within the Seashore. Superintendent Carlstrom said the signs will soon be installed with the same messaging for Barnstable County towns. He mentioned the circumstances of limited staff and the many access points to the ponds.

**Seasonal Rentals**

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer said that Phase 2 reopening had authorized seasonal rentals with no restrictions but with a recommendation for a 24-hour interval between renters. The 14-day quarantine is "inform" but not enforce. She said that the health agent is getting calls about people not wearing masks.

Health Agent Emily Beebe recommended patience with people trying to differentiate between, guidance, advisories, mandates and personal responsibilities. She welcomes calls from businesses or individuals about protection, and she expects more questions as the reopening happens. She asked that people complete self-certifications and do the right thing.

Kristen Reed recommended posting protocols on the Town website. Ms. Palmer and Emily Beebe said they are on the website already. Information has also been sent out with Board of Health permits and to those on the rental registration list. Health Agent Beebe said she is open to more ideas to inform all parties. Home operations need to follow reopening guidelines the same as larger businesses. Susan Areson said that the Truro Part-time Resident Taxpayers Association is good about sharing information. Kristen Reed commented on how useful AlerTruro had been in giving directives today on allowing 24-hour intervals between renters and would be another good means of keeping people informed. Ms. Palmer said both suggestions were good ones. Susan Areson said she was concerned about people who take it upon themselves to be enforcers, and Chair Worthington agreed that doesn't always work.

### **Business Reopenings**

Rae Ann Palmer said she and Town Planner Jeffrey Ribeiro have been developing plans for expanding outdoor seating for restaurants. At least one Truro restaurant has asked to expand. The Town Planner explained that Truro's plan would follow the Phase 2 policy that other Cape towns are using. This is a series of policies for Barnstable County including health codes, fire codes, and zoning approvals that could be eased on a case by case basis. Fire Chief Collins and Health Agent Beebe have concerns about the strength of barriers separating vehicles from the outdoor seating areas. Restaurants need to provide perimeter plans that indicate parking area, vehicular movements and seating arrangements. The layout of tables and chairs should show backs of chairs with 6-foot separations and a pathway to move through the dining area with sufficient distancing. Mr. Ribeiro said Provincetown has worked out plans with input from their building and health agents, and restaurants have managed to expand their outdoor dining areas.

Robert Weinstein asked about zoning issues being held in abeyance until November as a part of the phased reopening plan. He wanted to know if the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals had been informed about the flexibility on zoning approvals and special permits. Planner Jeffrey Ribeiro said Planning Board waived site plan review for the wine bar at the Jams plaza with the condition that use of the deck was not allowed. Susan Areson asked about abutter notifications, and Mr. Ribeiro said that notices and public hearings are suspended because that could prolong the process. He recommended that people watch Select Board meetings to know what is allowed. The intent is to get businesses open so they don't miss the short season.

Ms. Areson asked to hear from the business owners about limited business so far this year. Bob Montano said he was now in the fourth month of take-out meals. Steve Roderick has not heard of many restauranteurs who want to do outside seating. He asked about entertainment licenses. Ms. Palmer said that she has already received a request for an outdoor concert at Payomet, but allowances will be according to the governor's phases. Jeffrey Ribeiro said outdoor entertainment has not yet been included in the governor's policies. Health Agent Emily Beebe said entertainment will be included in Phase 3. Ms. Palmer said separate entertainment licenses go through the Select Board. Jeffry Ribeiro explained that older, approved outdoor dining with live or recorded entertainment will be allowed to continue.

Town Planner Jeffrey Ribeiro said he sought direction from the Select Board on how to allow business owners to proceed with their reopening plans. Janet Worthington said that she wants to do whatever is

needed to salvage part of the season. Susan Areson said businesses could tell their abutters about their plans but still cut through red tape. Kristen Reed agreed that businesses should try to get the most out of the season as possible, but issues need to be decided on a case by case basis. Stephanie Rein said she supports helping the business owners. Notifying abutters would slow the process. Robert Weinstein said he agrees with the rest of the Select Board and asked about discussing, and maybe voting on, an expedited process at the next regular meeting. Ms. Palmer said it was already on the agenda for next week's meeting.

Jason Silva said that he was puzzled on how to put together a plan for the Topmast Motel. They are working on it as their guests start to arrive. People already know about masks and social distancing and are taking on the personal responsibility, he said. Other business owners want to open up as soon as possible. It's good not to hamstring them anymore, Mr. Silva stated. Health Agent Beebe said that Jason Silva and the Topmast are planning for the long haul. Mr. Silva already plans to open his next season with many of this year's precautions in place. This is not just a stop gap. Covid is not going to disappear in the next 11 to 12 months. She expects it to be a subdued summer, but people come to Truro for the experience of isolating. We are all waiting for development of a vaccine, she said.

Bob Montano asked if there were any plans to provide more outdoor tables in public areas for people to enjoy. Janet Worthington said there was potential for this at the Veterans' Park, where the Farmers' Market has been held in the past. Ms. Palmer asked people to e-mail her quickly with suggestions. She will look at the park as a site for tables and porta-potties. Mr. Montano said that picnic tables on his parking lot would not work. A parking lot awning with flaps is not allowed. Jeffrey Ribeiro confirmed that a tent with flaps down is considered indoor seating. Ms. Beebe agreed that parking lot seating would not work at Montano's Restaurant. Mr. Montano does not own the grass strip out front. He said he was not going to try to create a back deck area because that had been turned down when he tried to get a Special Permit for one several years ago. Mr. Montano said he is operating at a loss as he begins the fourth month without indoor dining. Chair Worthington expressed the hope that the governor would reopen indoor dining soon. Kristen Reed spoke in support of more picnic benches but recognized the need for accompanying porta-potties, trash barrels and trash disposal. Those costs add up, she said, so the Town should think about proceeding in a prudent way.

### **Town Events**

Rae Ann Palmer said all Town events have been cancelled, but Steve Roderick had previously discussed ideas for Truro Treasures. Steve Roderick said that Truro Treasures is planning a Zoom event on Friday, holding an online auction with regular artists and creating an online dog show. For this year's popular dog show, people will be invited to post pictures and videos of dogs in their favorite places in Truro. The organizers are also considering a community event to celebrate business when it is safe to do so, he said.

### **Harbor Operations**

Rae Ann Palmer said that the restriction on out-of-state vehicles at Pamet Harbor has been lifted. The mask requirement is something that needs to be reinforced at the harbor, she said.

### **Beach Preparations**

The Beach Office is set to open. Beach Director Damion Clements explained that outside transactions will be allowed at that location, but people are encouraged to obtain their permits online. Curbside pick-up at the Community Center will also be provided. There will be no daily passes or cash exchanges at the beaches. Pathways to the beaches are all one-way. There are signs posted for social distancing and all

beach regulations. There will be the same number of lifeguards as last year, but they will be spaced further apart. Responding to a question from Susan Areson, Mr. Clements said there will be no increase in staffing. The assistant director and one clerk will be inside the beach office, and one staff member will be stationed outside. In response to Kristen Reed's question about beach parking, Damion Clements said that the Town Manager and DPW Director were working out ways to gauge when a beach was at capacity. He will give an update at another meeting.

### **Town Buildings**

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer reported that she and Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark had met with Council on Aging Director Mary Elizabeth Briscoe to discuss reopening the COA. The building will not be opening, but they will try to restart essential transportation for medical appointments. The Library, like the other Cape towns, is providing a pick-up service. Some towns are planning to reopen Town Hall on a limited basis, starting in July. Brewster's plan to open on Tuesday and Thursday might work for Truro, Ms. Palmer said. The ducts in all Town buildings have been cleaned, and the Town Hall dehumidification system has been replaced; however, Ms. Palmer does not anticipate full use of Town Hall until a vaccine for Covid-19 becomes available. Ms. Palmer said she would discuss appointment systems with other town managers and administrators at their next meeting. Truro is already doing some Town Hall business by appointment.

### **Playgrounds**

Recreation/Beach Director Damion Clements and Health Agent Emily Beebe have been examining playground cleaning procedures and costs. Cleaning would have to be contracted, but they have not figured out a plan of frequency that will work for the Town. That is holding up reopening, but they are getting closer. They are planning a swing-set arrangement that will allow better social distancing.

### **Next Steps**

Select Board Chair Janet Worthington commented on progress over the weeks since the pandemic changed everything and thanked the Town staff for their continued support. She noted that we are not as fearful now as we were several months ago. She asked Police Chief Jamie Calise to give a report on last week's demonstration. Chief Calise discussed the peaceful protest that had taken place in Truro last Friday. He had received help from other agencies because of his safety concerns about traffic on Rte. 6. Police calls were diverted to Wellfleet, but there were no incidents or issues. He thanked everyone for keeping things safe.

### **Next Reopening Meeting Agenda**

The next Reopening Task Force meeting will be held July 7, 2020 at 9 a.m. The scheduled meeting for June 30 is not suitable because it is the date for Town Elections. The governor will have announced plans for Phase 3 reopening on June 29th. Steve Roderick suggested adding a discussion of food pantries and financial hardship to the agenda. The regular Select Board meetings will be held June 23 and July 14, 2020. Expedited permitting for businesses like the wine bar will be an agenda item for the June 23rd.

### **Other Discussion and Announcements**

Ms. Palmer announced that the Transfer Station would be open seven days a week beginning in July since the cleaning schedule at the Public Safety Facility is now set. Select Board members, the Health Agent and Fire Chief Collins discussed ways of making more masks available to the public. Chief Collins said that MEMA and FEMA will only supply masks for emergency personnel, not to the general public. Chair Worthington noted that most restaurants and retail stores have masks available to their clients. The

Health Agent and Select Board members Areson and Reed discussed a community drive for donations of home-made masks. Ms. Palmer said she believes the Town can get some plain cloth masks, and she asked Kelly Clark to check on available sources. Stephanie Rein suggested having the highway signboard remind people of the upcoming Annual Town Election. Rae Ann Palmer said the messages will be put on the signboards next week.

**Adjournment**

Susan Areson moved to adjourn. Stephanie Rein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Rogers, Secretary



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

