

**TOWN OF TRURO
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020
Remote Meeting Via GoToMeeting**

Members Present: Chair-Janet Worthington, Vice Chair-Robert Weinstein, Clerk-Kristen Reed, Member-Susan Areson, Member-Stephanie Rein

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Town Manager-Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Clark, Sally Brotman, Police Chief-Jamie Calise

Chair Worthington called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, announced the meeting would be virtual, and provided the toll-free number and access code.

Public Comment

Chair Worthington had two letters to read into the record. She read them in the order in which they were received.

The first letter was by Joan Holt and was signed by dozens of people. It was addressed to the Select Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was a statement on the Cloverleaf Housing Development its impacts on the environment in Truro. One worry is the amount of people that will be living near each other on four acres of land. Other concerns were raised with financial questions.

The second letter was by Sally Brotman and was also signed by dozens of people. It was also addressed to the Select Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The letter rejects the claim from the letter by Joan Holt that states density will be a public health problem. It also lays out the Boards and Committees which have received the Cloverleaf application for comment, and states that the Zoning Board of Appeals conducted televised meetings for the public to view and comment on. Financial concerns and concerns on the environment were also addressed.

Sally Brotman called in to the meeting. She stated that they received ninety signatures on the letter of support for the Cloverleaf which Chair Worthington just read into the record. The individuals that signed feel that, in terms of priorities, the housing situation is critical, and the lack of affordable housing is already impacting town services, businesses, health care, and the sustainability of the community.

Select Board Action

Chair Worthington stated that there was something which came up at very short notice and hence, was not on the agenda. Town Manager Palmer has an application for Federal assistance that she is going to ask the Board to vote on and authorize her to sign. The USDA came to the Town at the beginning of the week and offered design and construction funds for the Pamet River culvert at Truro Center Road. Unfortunately, a commitment to accept the construction funds cannot be made because it would require that the USDA pay seventy-five percent of the construction and the Town commit to pay twenty-five percent, which cannot be done without Town Meeting approval. The USDA needs to commit the money by the end of this week. As an alternative, the USDA has suggested that they'll give the Town \$200,000 for one hundred percent of the design of the new culvert. The USDA funded the analysis that will provide the Town with for replacing the failing culvert. Once the Town goes through that process and has community input, the next step would be to do the actual design for construction. Town Manager Palmer is asking the Select Board to take a vote to authorize her to accept the funds and to sign the contract for the \$200,000. The USDA will then be able to commit the funds and the Town can

keep the project moving. The USDA believes they will be able to tell the Town, by August, whether they can get Truro the actual seventy-five percent of the construction funds also.

Member Reed asked, procedurally, if the item was not posted then how are they able to vote on it? Town Manager Palmer explained that because it was not anticipated, it could be added to tonight's agenda, and they can vote on it.

Member Areson made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract to accept \$200,000.00 for one hundred percent of the design work needed for the Pamet River culvert at Truro Center Road.

Member Rein seconded.

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

Election of Select Board Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk)

Member Areson made a motion to approve Chair Worthington to continue as the Chair of the Select Board.

No second was made.

Member Reed made a motion to approve Bob Weinstein as Chair of the Truro Select Board.

Member Rein seconded.

Member Areson asked if there would be discussion. Chair Worthington stated she was sorry she did not have the confidence of members Reed, Weinstein, and Rein going forward. She feels she's done a good job and thinks it would not be good to change the course at this point. She mentioned that she had graciously given her support to Member Weinstein when he asked for it during the last go-around and is sorry that he cannot do that in return.

Member Areson added that she had discussed, in private, with Member Weinstein her concerns for his running the Board for the one year he was Chair. She still holds true to those beliefs. She enjoys working with him but cannot support him as the Chair.

Member Reed thanked Chair Worthington for her leadership and service. She listed Member Weinstein's many years of experience serving the Town on various Boards (including this one) and having sat under him on this Board she thinks he is the best choice moving forward.

Member Rein wanted to thank Chair Worthington for all the work she's done. She, too, thinks Member Weinstein has more experience and she supports him as the Chair.

Chair Worthington asked Member Rein to explain how Member Weinstein had more experience, to which Member Rein explained he has been Chair in the past and has sat on multiple committees.

Chair Worthington then asked for a vote on all in favor of Member Weinstein as Chair.

Member Reed-Aye

Member Weinstein-Aye

Member Rein-Aye

Chair Worthington then asked for a vote on all against Member Weinstein as Chair.

Member Areson-Aye

Chair Worthington-Aye

So voted; 3-2-0, motion carries.

Chair Weinstein wished to comment. He wanted to thank Member Worthington, and stated he was sorry he didn't have complete support of the Board. He hopes he can gain the confidence of the two members of the Board who don't feel he should occupy the position. He confirmed that he sat down

with Member Areson about a year ago where she explained why she didn't think he would be a good Chair, and he listened. He does feel he is qualified and hopes he can get everyone's support. He is open to constructive criticism.

Chair Weinstein moved along to the next item on the agenda, which was to appoint the remaining two officers to the Board.

Member Areson nominated Member Worthington to be the Vice Chair. Member Worthington declined the nomination.

Member Rein nominated Member Reed to be Vice Chair.

Chair Weinstein seconded.

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

Member Reed nominated Member Areson as Clerk of the Select Board.

Member Rein seconded.

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

Town Manager Palmer asked if they could move the discussion on Truro Policing ahead of the Select Board liaison list and the update on goals and objectives. The Board members agreed.

Discussion on Truro Policing

Chief Calise stated he'd prepared a few remarks, to speak broadly about their daily operations, as well as their training focus and policy development for the department. He noted that they were having this discussion, in part, because of what happened in Minneapolis. The actions in the incident in Minneapolis are not consistent with fairness or equity, or anything that law enforcement in general stands for. Specifically speaking of Truro's Police Department, he stated the agency fully embraces community policing, collaboration, and they seek the trust of the community. The agency supports the principle that a police officer's job is enforcing the law, and not meting out punishment. Further, they believe strongly in partnership being the solution to many things; not division or tribalism. He explained Massachusetts' policing focus. Massachusetts Police Recruits attend the Police Academy, and the Academy's focus is on best practices for law enforcement. The MPTC (Municipal Police Training Committee) focuses on problem solving, procedural justice, ethical decision making, and fair and impartial policing. The training includes topics such as de-escalation techniques, mental health call responses, etc. Last year the department went through a significant restructuring. They wanted to prioritize policy review and development of the agency. In 2019, they began a policy review and centralized the roles of training and internal matters. In January 2020, they reviewed their Use of Force policy. They have prioritized training for the agency, and Chief Calise gives thanks to the Town (elected officials and town members) who identified the increase in training as a priority.

All members of the department attend yearly in-service training through the State, which encompasses forty hours of training. Topics of trainings this past year were: Legal Update, Procedures and Protocols for Investigations Involving Animal, Police Survival, Defensive Tactics (which is inclusive of de-escalation techniques), Annual Firearms Training, CPR and First Aid. For the upcoming year, Legal Updates again are part of the training, as well as Defensive Tactics. There is also Officer Health and Wellness, Implicit Bias, Domestic Terrorism, Responding to Covid-19 States of Emergency, as well as traditional firearms and CPR training.

Member Areson asked how members of the public could learn more about the Truro Police Department and get more detail about the Citizens Police Academy. Chief Calise stated that information is regularly posted through the Department's Facebook page. The department's webpage also has information

related to the agency and its programs. He added that they always welcome questions from the public via e-mails, letters, and phone calls.

Member Reed stated that she's received constituent e-mails talking about broad-stroke defunding which feels reckless to her. She wants to address people's concerns as we watch the dialog happen at a state and national level. Chief Calise stated that for police officers to be effective, they must have confidence in the agency policies, but also the justice system and the law as a whole. That confidence is destroyed when changes happen too quickly without the benefit of either input or debate (perhaps in response to individual demands). The defunding aspect is something he is opposed to and would require discussion around alternative plans.

Chair Weinstein stated that the department's operating budget was roughly two million dollars with an estimated twenty-three thousand dollars allotted for training. He asked if that dollar amount was common to small departments like Truro's. He also wanted to know if that training budget could be augmented without damaging monies necessary for general operations of the department. Chief Calise stated that typically a department's training budget is about one percent of the police budget. The twenty-three-thousand-dollar amount was slightly more than one percent. He explained that currently, around eighty-nine percent of the budget are fixed costs due to contractual requirements, etc. The rough number of twenty-three thousand allows for professional development, as well as the cost of training that's mandated by the State. Training funding is prioritized by the department and is consistent with general budgets nationwide.

Chair Weinstein asked if there is training to respond to kinds of calls (including citizens who fail to call in for a wellness check) that would fall under the broad heading of "social services." Chief Calise stated that they have officers who work as liaisons with social service agencies. If someone doesn't call in for a wellness check, an officer will go to the home to determine if there is a problem. Some sort of action might need to be taken to ensure their safety or well-being.

Review and Approve Select Board Liaison List

All members were happy with their assigned Boards/Committees. Member Areson expressed interest in being the liaison to the Bike and Walkways Committee. Chair Weinstein agreed to relinquish the role he held as liaison to the Bike and Walkways Committee to Member Areson.

Member Areson made a motion to accept the liaison list as amended.

Member Rein seconded.

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

Update on FY20 Goals and Objectives

Town Manager Palmer provided an update on Fiscal Year 2020 Goals and Objectives. Some items were completed, others were in progress and some were not started. Challenges such as the unexpected death of a Select Board member who was actively involved in several of the Select Board objectives, and the pandemic, hindered completion. She recommended that the Board take the next week or so to review the existing goals and objectives and send her email with the objectives they'd like to keep or add to be compiled for a discussion. A Public Hearing can be scheduled in August.

Consent Agenda

Chair Weinstein asked if everyone had gone through and reviewed the items on the consent agenda. Member Rein made a revision to the minutes from June 16th.

Member Areson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the amendment on the minutes from June 16th.

Member Rein seconded.

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

Select Board Reports/Comments

Member Worthington reported that the search committee for the new Town Manager is moving along. They are starting interviews this week and all interviews should be complete by Friday evening. They hope to have finalists by then.

Member Rein reported that the Commission on Disabilities discussed their desire to purchase adult exercise equipment for people of all ages and abilities for Puma Park at their recent meeting. She feels it will be a great addition to Puma Park.

Member Areson reported that she is following the ongoing issues with Truro Motor Inn by watching Board of Health meetings. She also noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals cut short their meeting on the Cloverleaf due to people having difficulty hearing it. To be cautious, the Zoning Board postponed the meeting and the hearings are continuing. She encourages everyone to go back and view the Board meetings if they can't be attended live. She commented that the Board has done very well working together, and she will continue to work collaboratively with Select Board members and with members of the public.

Member Reed read a prepared statement regarding the opponents of the Cloverleaf project to the Board.

Member Worthington stated that she didn't feel it was helpful to continue the divisiveness about the subject. She feels people have a right to their opinions and will be able to vote how they feel about this. She encouraged the Board to be supportive and respectful of other's opinions and cautioned that deriding people for their opinions or calling names will make it difficult to get any kind of housing. She urged people to get together on it, and not pick sides. Member Reed appreciated Member Worthington's comments, and added that for people to work together, they must work with facts, and not disseminate misinformation and use it to scare people.

Chair Weinstein stated he has been hounding the Cape Cod National Seashore on signage. He noticed the other day that the Seashore had installed a COVID alert sign at the trailhead on North Pamet Road for the set of trails which commence at the youth hostel. He wished to publicly thank the superintendent and his staff who were responsible for placing that sign. He hopes that the Seashore can place similar signs at pond accesses. He reported that there were no signs at Great Pond on Collins Road or at Horseleech Pond. He feels signage has been helpful, where it exists.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Palmer wished to report that Payomet changed one of their two approved dates from Sunday, July 19th to Wednesday, July 22nd from 3 to 7pm. They also have a performance on the 18th. Payomet will be back on the agenda for the Select Board's next meeting. She also noted that the Town is having a problem at Head of the Meadow Beach where the Seashore does not have gate attendants or lifeguards. On July 13th at 1:00pm there were one hundred and seventy-five cars in the Seashore's parking lot at Head of the Meadow. There were people on floats and people swimming in the rip tides, which placed tremendous pressure on the Town's lifeguards. A meeting will be held with the Superintendent and his Chief Ranger.

Town Manager Palmer reported that preliminary numbers indicate that the Town will end Fiscal 2020 in relatively stable condition. A spending freeze was put in place in late March/early April and the expenses have been managed quite well. There are additional revenues, so she does not have the final numbers yet. She is very pleased with where the Town is.

Next Meeting Agenda

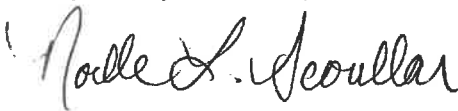
Member Reed would like to discuss how to move forward with the Walsh Committee. Member Areson would like to know if there is an update on the Town Planner applications. Town Manager Palmer stated there were two applicants. Town Manager Palmer explained that the position was advertised in the New England chapter of the American Planning Association and in the Beacon and that no deadline was included so that the next town manager can hire the next planner. Barbara Huggins Carboni, Senior Counsel at KP Law, will be taking over as the Interim Planner. Town Manager Palmer reviewed the agenda items for July 28th.

Member Areson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22pm.

Member Rein seconded.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Noelle L. Scoullar



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

Public Records Material of July 14, 2020

1. Cloverleaf Opposition Letter from Joan Holt and others
2. Cloverleaf Support Letter from citizens
3. Boards and Committees Liaison List FY2020
4. Policy Memorandum #34
5. Values and Fiscal Year 2020 Goals and Objectives
6. Application to Serve-Tracey Rose
7. Application to Serve-Meredith Goff and approval email from Chair, Tracey Rose
8. Application to Serve-Heidi Townsend and approval email from Chair, Art Hultin
9. Application to Serve-Jason Silva and approval email from Chair, Tracey Rose
10. Reappointment Checklist
11. Draft Minutes-Select Board Meeting of June 9, 2020
12. Draft Minutes-Select Board Reopening Task Force Meeting of June 16, 2020

