

Truro Select Board / Special Meeting and Reopening Task Force
Tuesday, July 7, 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 Accountant Trudi Brazil; Steve Roderick and Bob Montano

TRURO SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

Select Board Chair Janet Worthington opened the work session at 9:03 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Review Payomet Drive in Events Entertainment License and Possible Vote to Approve

Select Board Chair Jan Worthington spoke to the Payomet Theater request for the 2020 season. Kevin Rice, Executive Director of the Payomet Performing Arts Center reached out to the Town proposing a drive-in entertainment feature. Chair Worthington explained that the proposal before the Board was similar to public performances that have been done in various other towns and cities in the Commonwealth. She added that Payomet's proposal for drive-in events included guidelines, parking plans, a stage plan and a National Park Risk Assessment.

Mass General Law Chapter 140, and 181 provides local authority to license performance events, and the Payomet Performing Arts submitted an entertainment license application for the 2020 season, with an attached list of event dates. The entertainment application has been reviewed and approved by the Chief of Police. Their temporary sign permanent applications have been submitted to the Planning Board. Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer noted that Phase III of Massachusetts' Reopening Plan began yesterday and allows for entertainment events.

Kevin Rice noted that Payomet occupies rental space from the Park Service at Highland Center. He added that they have had a number of patrons, audience members, and community members ask for the consideration of a drive-in concept. Payomet did a survey a month ago, which is included in the Select Board packet. He explained that it would be an open-air concept located in the 1.5 acre ballfield at the Highlands Center. Payomet decided not to have the children's circus camp due to the physical contact, but would have circus performances. He further explained several performances that were in the works for the 2020 season. Because of the Coronavirus, Payomet would host local and regional music artists, especially those who are within commuting distance.

Select Board Vice-Chair Robert Weinstein, thanked Mr. Rice for the thorough proposal and spoke to Payomet being a real treasure for the Community. He calculated that accommodating 86

cars on the ballfield with 4 people per car would total 344 people. He questioned whether that amount was allowable at Phase III.

Mr. Rice added that capacities referred to for Phase III are referring to indoor spaces with Phase III, not specifically referring to a drive-in format.

Mr. Weinstein added that he would love for this to be approved but due to capacity was concerned it could become a super spreader location.

Select Board Clerk Kristen Reed stated that she had some logistical questions she needed clarified. She asked about the spacing of the vehicles and social distancing when people wait in line with respect to the restrooms. She also asked if masks will be provided, and how they will manage when people are not in compliance.

Mr. Rice responded that there will be entrance and exits for parking that will be clearly marked. There will be parking captains and parking monitors, with safety protocols being their highest priority. Mr. Rice added that there have been numerous discussions with staff, volunteers, and the public relative to the bathrooms. He explained that the music performances would generally run for an hour with no intermissions and that he didn't think many people would be using the bathrooms with such short performances.

Ms. Reed asked about when people leave their cars and perhaps become less vigilant and perhaps are not wearing their masks and are gathering. Mr. Rice said that Payomet would absolutely require a mask and failure to wear mask may result in the individual not being permitted to attend future events.

Town Manager Palmer read aloud a section of the Phase III guidance noting that no event can host more than 100 people. Ms. Reed commented that there was a great deal of social distancing imbedded in the proposed plans, but was concerned about the number of cars and the number of patrons in each car. Mr. Rice felt that there would not be that many vehicles attending with local regional artists, estimating about 70 cars would attend.

Select Board Chair Worthington felt the number of vehicles should be limited. Town Manager Palmer cited the State's guidance that "live performances must follow the rules for performers in the Theaters and Performance Venues guidance" and that the Theaters and Performance Venues guidance requires a 100-person maximum. Select Board Clerk Reed suggested that tickets could be sold before the event to control the number of people admitted. Select Board Member Susan Areson suggested approving the license with the number of people specified.

Select Board Member Areson asked for clarification on whether patrons would be required to stay in their vehicles and whether they could open the windows of their cars. Mr. Rice responded that it would not be possible to ask them to remain in their cars but they would be asked to stay in the space provided for the vehicle. Payomet would like car engines turned off during the performance. He added that the programming will be in the daytime mainly.

Select Board Member Stephanie Rein thanked her colleagues and Mr. Rice for all the information provided. She agreed that the bathrooms would be the weakest link in the operation. She added that she feels at ease that the performances will only run an hour, limiting the use of restrooms.

Select Board Clerk Reed expressed her concerns that restrooms will still be used frequently and are high touch areas.

Town Manager Palmer added that it will be difficult for people to remain in their cars and reiterated that the State's guidance limits occupancy to 100 people. Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark posted the referenced guidance on the screen.

Mr. Rice interpreted Phase III to allow for 8 people per one thousand square feet of space because the venue is a hybrid of a drive-in and a performance venue. This would allow for 500-600 people at the ballfield. Mr. Rice stated he could cap admission at 85 cars and see how it goes for the first two concerts.

Town Manager Palmer offered that a decision could wait for the Health Agent to get a determination on the allowable limit of people from the Massachusetts' Department of Public Health. She suggested that the Board consider allowing two events with a close look at the operations. Chair Worthington agreed that the occupancy limits could be reviewed at that time.

Vice-Chair Weinstein stated the Board cannot approve Payomet to exceed the State occupancy limits. He suggested the occupancy could be limited to 100 people for the first two events and clarification from the Department of Public Health would help with a determination for the remainder of the proposed events.

Mr. Rice responded that Payomet is in very close communication with their audience ticket holders, and it wouldn't be difficult to limit to 100 people. Chair Worthington suggested that the Health Agent could attend the initial shows for observation.

Vice-Chair Weinstein moved to approve the drive-in entertainment license for Payomet Performing Arts Charitable Trust for the 2020 season and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts license for public entertainment, weekdays and on Sundays, and to limit the initial two performances to an attendance of no more than 100 individuals pending further instruction from Truro's Health Agent and the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health, which may increase this number and authorize the Chair to electronically sign the application, and the Board to electronically sign the license. Seconded by Select Board Member Rein.

Select Board Clerk Reed questioned if the 100 people included staff as well as patrons. Town Manager Palmer said the 100 includes staff *and* patrons. She added that the Board may need to revisit the 100 people amount after they get guidance from the State to clarify for the organizers. Chair Worthington noted that they can place it on a future Agenda for a revote.

Ms. Reed asked if the motion needed to be amended to specify the 100 patrons and staff. Chair Worthington felt that it was inherent at this time, in the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

Chair Worthington asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting. Select Board Member Areson so moved. Select Board Vice-Chair Weinstein seconded. Voted: 5-0-0. Motion passed.

TRURO RE-OPENING TASK FORCE

Chair Worthington opened the Re-opening Task Force Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Town Manager Palmer stated that she did not see anyone for Public Comment. She asked that Steve Roderick of the Chamber of Commerce be heard next.

3. DISCUSSION/UPDATES

- A. Beaches**
- B. Reopening of Playground**
- C. Reopening Town Buildings**
- D. Town Events**
- E. Harbor Operations**
- F. Business Re-openings**
- G. Discussion of the Food Pantry and Community Needs**
- H. Next Steps & Future Agenda Items**

Business Re-openings

Steve Roderick of the Chamber of Commerce stated that the Chamber opened on Friday, May 26th with window-service only. He reported that people seem to be following social distance rules at this time. Mr. Roderick stated that there were masks available at the Chamber booth.

Bob Montano of Montano's Restaurant said business has been primarily take out (75%). Patrons are wearing their masks when they come into the restaurant. He was optimistic that dining-in would increase over time. He added that overall the numbers were good, but he is not serving the larger group sizes that he normally serves the summer.

Steve Roderick asked on behalf of a business owner if dance floors were permitted for outdoor weddings. Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark explained that dance floors will not be allowed until Phase IV.

Beaches

Damion Clements, Recreation and Beach Director, reported that there were shark sightings during opening weekend. He announced that they are currently not selling day passes for Corn Hill or Head of the Meadow beaches. He reported that sales were good and spoke to how smoothly the shark sighting alert procedure went.

Select Board Clerk Reed spoke of two constituent grievances about not offering day passes and people creating their own path to Head of the Meadow Beach (Town-side) from the Seashore-side. Town Manager Palmer added that the Cape Cod National Seashore does not have attendants or lifeguards at Head of the Meadow Beach this season. People are parking on the Seashore-side and using Truro beaches where lifeguards are stationed. She explained that not selling day passes was a two-fold decision for Truro; it allowed for more social distancing while for residents and nonresidents and the beaches and it also prevents the exchange of cash in close proximity. Staff checked with the vendor to see if there was any possibility of doing day passes online, but that feature is not available yet.

Select Board Member Areson asked if increased sales for the season included day passes sold last year. Recreation and Beach Director Clements responded that including day passes sold last year the sales this year are close due to the increase in sticker sales. It's unclear if that trend will continue.

Select Board Member Rein asked if it was possible to have the Seashore close their parking lot as it is impacting the Town lot. Town Manager Palmer shared Ms. Rein's concern. Ms. Palmer noted that she has had ongoing discussions with the Superintendent of the Seashore about this matter.

Select Board Vice-Chair Weinstein stated that he spoke with Brian Carlstrom because of the lack of signage both at the Seashore beach locations and the ponds. He reported that the Seashore was in the process of getting signage for all of the access points, not just at the beaches but also the trails. Mr. Weinstein felt the Seashore was really remiss in terms of their signage because people have not been wearing masks and have not practiced social distancing.

Town Manager Palmer had multiple discussions with the Superintendent and explained that the Seashore doesn't have housing for the typical number of people they hire. They had to reduce the number of people staying in the Seashore houses due to Covid precautions, which is driving the lack of lifeguards and gate attendants at Seashore beaches.

Recreation Director Clements further noted that the playground is open now with safety protocols in place.

Reopening Town Buildings

Town Manager Palmer stated that she had sent the Board a re-opening plan for Town Hall that reflects the standards that have been issued for office space and municipal office spaces. She added that they were looking to re-open Town Hall two days a week with limited hours from 8:30 to 3:30pm when safety measure implementation was complete. Intercoms are being installed at the Town Hall entrance vestibule, where the glass doors are on either side. Once installed, a citizen would push an intercom button and would be buzzed in for their requested department. The person would be asked to complete a contact tracing document and six-foot interval spaces would be clearly designated. She added procedures will be modified for individuals with disabilities on an individual basis.

She reported that people having trouble with online access for purchasing Transfer Station Stickers sometimes show up at Town Hall and knock on the window to ask for help. Staff has accommodated these transactions.

Town Manager Palmer said staff will still be coming in on a rotating basis. The buildings will have a deep clean after those two days that Town Hall is open to the public. DPW Director Jarrod Cabral stated that the initial wiring for the intercom will be done between Wednesday and Friday of this week. Then the actual component is about two weeks from being installed due to shipping delays; adding that hopefully there will be an opening date in late July. It was noted that appointments will be encouraged, and meetings are still being restricted inside of Town Hall.

Town Events

Town Manager Palmer stated that there are no Town events other than a Yoga request and the Farmers' Market. Truro Treasures Weekend is still working on the possibility of a community event.

Harbor Operations

Town Manager Palmer spoke of the Dutch door being installed at the Harbor Office. There will also be a card reader installed for purchases. Assistant Town Manager Clark reported that credit card sales could be up and running by this weekend. Town Manager Palmer stated that the Harbor was fully open. She added people need to remember that they still have to socially distance along the gangway, and people need to wear masks. People moving from their vehicles to their boats and back need a mask.

Food Pantry and Community Needs

Town Manager Palmer reported to the Board that staff is helping with food pantry distribution on Fridays and the Community Kitchen is now at the Christian Union Church. The Food 4 Kids program, typically offered as part of the Recreation Summer Program, is being offered again this summer as a partnership between Food 4 Kids, the Library, and the Community Center staff.

Steven Roderick mentioned a fundraiser for the Church to assist with covering utility costs. He also spoke of a food drive which will start the last week of August and run until mid-September. He added that there is a need for food in the community. They will be collaborating with Salty Market for donations to the food drive.

Select Board Clerk Reed asked if masks were still available at the Fire Department. Chief Collins said that 150-200 masks were donated. Town Manager Palmer offered that locations like the Library and food pick-up areas can be used for mask distribution. There are also masks available in all the police cruisers.

Next Steps & Future Agenda Items

Town Manager Palmer stated that there is a regular meeting next week with a vote for reorganization of the Board and a discussion on the Select Board liaisons. She added that there will also be an update on the Board's goals as well as the approval of applications to serve for renewal of appointments. Select Board Clerk Reed added they may want to hear from Kevin Rice on how the Payomet events went and vote to authorize future events. Select Board Vice-Chair Weinstein asked for a discussion with the Police Chief regarding the nature of the training for Truro's Police Officers so the public knows the Board is concerned about continuing the good and necessary public service from the Police Department.

Select Board Clerk Reed felt that it was important to have a discussion on these topics but to also make policies around the discussions so there is intention and purpose. She added that she also received emails from constituents wanting to defund the Police Department. She felt that the Town has a responsibility to address some of these constituent concerns.

Select Board Vice-Chair Weinstein clarified that this discussion would be an opportunity for the Chief to explain how the department operates under the current policies and the nature of officer training.

Police Chief Calise commented that he would certainly welcome the opportunity to speak to the Board. He noted that the first budget of his tenure included a request for an increase in funding for training and that training budgets are usually around 1% of the entire budget. He added that he cannot stress the importance of training more and he welcomed the opportunity to discuss training. He added that the agency is working very hard to be professional and to be appropriate and responsive.

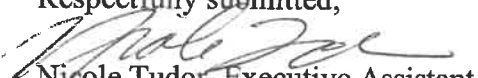
It was agreed to place this topic on the next Select Board Agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Worthington asked for a motion to Adjourn. Select Board Member Susan Areson moved to adjourn. Chair Worthington seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nicole Tudor, Executive Assistant



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

Public Records material of 07/07/2020

1. Payomet Performing Arts Center Proposal for Drive-In Events Summer 2020 (Submitted 6/17/2020)
2. 2020 Seasonal Entertainment Application, including Public Entertainment on Sunday and list of proposed entertainment dates
3. Proposed Reopening Plan for Town Hall (7/7/2020)

