

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Via GoToMeeting Platform

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

Others Present: Town Manager-Darrin Tangeman, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Sullivan Clark, Eric Parker, Debbie Best-Parker, Rebecca Bruyn, Board of Assessors Chair-Bruce Boleyn, Ron Fichtner, Pamela Fichtner, Joan Holt, Tracey Rose, Town Moderator-Monica Kraft, Helen McNeil-Ashton, DPW Director-Jarrold Cabral, Recreation/Beach Director-Damion Clements, Peter Manso, Health/Conservation Agent-Emily Beebe, Climate Action Committee Chair-Carol Harris, Annawon Weeden, Lynne Ready, Jim Summers, Ellen Anthony, Susan Howe, Alice Boyd

Chair Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. He read to watch or join the meeting.

Public Comment

Peter Manso read a letter he sent to Chair Weinstein earlier in the day pertaining to the Massachusetts State Police not making the Covid-19 vaccine mandatory for all employees. Mr. Manso proceeded to reference a Boston Globe article. He is requesting that the Town issue a statement to be sent to both the Massachusetts State Police, the Governor's Office, and perhaps District Attorney Michael O'Keefe, expressing that as a community, we are dismayed by this.

Debbie Best-Parker wanted to thank the Town Manager for wanting to move the Annual Town Meeting into June. She is hoping that by June she will be vaccinated against Covid-19. If she is not, she will not be attending Town Meeting.

Joan Holt read a letter she sent to the Select Board regarding two matters: the order of the Warrant articles (and her desire to group all Charter amendment articles) and the water main extension contract.

Board/Committee/Commission Appointments

Review and Approval of Rebecca Bruyn and Nancy Kete to the Climate Action Committee

Rebecca Bruyn introduced herself. She explained her interest in climate action. Climate Action Chair-Carol Harris spoke in favor of Ms. Bruyn's appointment.
Nancy Kete was not present.

Member Reed made a motion to appoint Rebecca Bruyn to the Climate Action Committee for the remainder of a three-year term ending June 30, 2022.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Chair Weinstein asked that the appointment of Nancy Kete to the Climate Action Committee be moved to the Select Board meeting of March 23, 2021.

Staff/Committee Updates

Beach Cleanup Bag Program

Recreation/Beach Director Clements updated the Board on a proposal brought to the Town staff by Ellery Althaus, the co-owner of Salty Market. The proposal is to install beach cleanup stations at Truro beaches. Recreation/Beach Director Clements and DPW Director Cabral have been working with Mr. Althaus to create the program. The plan is to construct small boxes which would hold reusable bags that beachgoers could take prior to walking on the beach to collect small trash along the way. They are currently searching for sponsors for the program. Member Rein asked what happens after the bag is filled with trash. Recreation/Beach Director Clements listed some options:

- People could purchase a bag.
- People could borrow the bags, use them, and then put them back.

Board/Committee Report: Board of Health and Board of Assessors

Board of Health Chair Tracey Rose read from a timeline she created.

Accomplishments for the past 12 months:

- Discussing continuing non-compliance from the Truro Motor Inn.
- Working on Water Resource Protection Regulations.
- Outbreak of SARS-COV declared a global pandemic in March 2020.
- Remote meetings began.
- Mandatory mask order issued by Board of Health and Select Board for all Town owned property.
- Public Hearing held on the Truro Motor Inn license and application for a Title V variances. Both were denied. This remains in litigation to date.
- Work session held to review the Cloverleaf proposal with Engineer, Mark Nelson.
- Informational meeting held to describe the review process of the Cloverleaf proposal from the Board of Health's perspective.
- Three new members were appointed this year.
- Truro Board of Health is now sitting at the wastewater planning table with Wellfleet as they work on their watershed permit.
- The Board of Health is entering a period of enhanced need for public education about our groundwater, private wells, and wastewater treatment.
- The Board of Health is currently participating in a watershed study with Standish Pond and the Cape Cod Commission.

Goals for the next 6 months:

- Develop strategies to inform the public and increase awareness about good stewardship by testing, maintenance, and preventative behaviors with our wastewater.
- More work on the Truro Motor Inn.
- Bringing new members on the Board of Health up to speed with processes and regulations.

Goals for the next 12 months:

- Develop public education strategies and Board of Health regulations that address water quality concerns.
- Continue to work on groundwater protection district regulations.
- Commence Pamet River watershed improvements.
- Implement watershed improvements for Standish Pond and public education materials to support that work.

- Continue to work with property owners who need to present themselves to the Board of Health with discrepancies or challenges with their particular upgrades or projects.

Member Areson asked if there was anything the Select Board can do to support the Board of Health's work. Board of Health Chair Rose stated that having Member Areson attend some of the Board of Health meetings as the liaison makes a statement to the Community. Health/Conservation Agent Beebe echoes Board of Health Chair Rose's comment about the liaison. Having channels open to communicate is really important.

Board of Assessors Chair Bruce Boleyn said that he submitted a draft of assessing activity to the Select Board this afternoon. Activity has been relatively comparable to prior years. The Board has one vacancy. Member Areson had the opportunity to review what Chair Boleyn submitted asked him to review it for the benefit of the public.

Chair Boleyn highlighted efforts to communicate with other communities, involvement in land and property assessment values and ratios, weighing in on housing limitations like bedrooms and frontage issues, engaging in site visits to properties during the year and holding hearings where open discussions are held. Member Areson asked that Assessors Chair Boleyn's document be made public.

Member Reed asked if Assessors Chair Boleyn could read specific numbers related to parcels (from his draft of assessing activity) for residential vs. commercial parcels. Assessors Chair Boleyn read the numbers.

Board of Assessors Chair Boleyn briefly described his involvement with the Taxation Aid Committee. Chair Weinstein explained the process for taxpayers who have an issue with their assessed valuations, and do not feel the issues were adequately addressed or settled here in Truro.

Member Reed asked if there was any support that the Select Board or the Town Manager could provide to help the work that the Board of Assessors does. Board of Assessors Chair Boleyn stated that the need for support does not come up often.

Select Board Action

Town Meeting Planning and Possible Vote to Approve Town Meeting Date

Town Manager Tangeman stated that he and Town Moderator Kraft discussed options for Town Meeting earlier in the week. It does not appear there will be questions on the ballot related to the Warrant and as such, there will not be the need for deliberation prior to the election as they first anticipated. As a result, the Annual Town Election timing as it related to the Annual Town Meeting is not as sensitive as originally thought. After a review of other events, June 26 is recommended as the date of Town Meeting.

General consensus from Select Board members is that they are in favor of moving the Annual Town Meeting to June 26th (rain date: June 27th).

Member Rein asked about moving the Annual Town Election to after the Annual Town Meeting. Town Manager Tangeman stated that if we are holding the meeting on June 26th, we will have a very tight window before the end of the fiscal year to hold the election. Member Areson does not see any reason to move the election since there are options for mail-in voting and there are no financial articles on the ballot. Chair Weinstein agrees. Member Reed asked if people would have all the different options available to them regarding voting. Town Manager Tangeman does not know of any potential changes from the previous election which would prevent the Town from providing those other options. Member Rein pointed out that communication was just received from the State allowing towns to offer early voting again.

Member Reed made a motion that pursuant to Gen. Law Chapter 39, Section 9, the Select Board set the date for the Annual Town Meeting as Saturday, June 26, 2021.

Member Areson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Review and Vote on Town Meeting Articles

Town Manager Tangeman recommended the Select Board review, and vote, on some routine Articles that are fairly non-controversial that will be before the Finance Committee:

- Article 1: Authorization to Hear the Report of the Multi-member Bodies
- Article 2: Authorization to Set the Salary of the Select Board
- Article 3: Authorization to Set the Salary of the Moderator

Chair Weinstein suggested deferring taking any vote on the other articles because the Finance Committee serves as an advisory body to the Select Board, and he feels it would be inappropriate to move forward without hearing what their recommendations are first. In reviewing and voting on Article 3, Chair Weinstein stated he would need to recuse himself.

Member Areson made a motion to recommend Article 1: Authorization to Hear the Report of the Multi-member bodies.

Member Reed Seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Member Reed made a motion to recommend Article 2: Authorization to Set the Salary of the Select Board.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Chair Weinstein recused, and removed, himself from the meeting for Article 3. He turned the meeting over to Vice Chair-Kristen Reed.

Member Areson made a motion to recommend Article 3: Authorization to Set the Salary of the Moderator.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Rein: Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Abstained

So voted; 4-0-1 (Chair Weinstein abstains), motion carries.

Chair Weinstein rejoined the meeting.

Next up for discussion:

Article 13: Amend General Bylaws, Chapter 3 Prohibitions on the Use and Sale of Balloons

Member Areson made a motion to recommend Article 13: Amend General Bylaws, Chapter 3 Prohibitions on the Use and Sale of Balloons.

Member Reed seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Article 14: Amend General Bylaws, Chapter 3 Municipal Single-Use Plastic Bottle Ban.

Town Manager Tangeman stated that this will require additional deliberation by the Select Board. Some issues of note are:

- There are two of articles pertaining to this bylaw change. One was brought forward from last year by the Select Board and another article with similar language is a petitioned article.
- There are some concerns about the need to consider the intent of the wording "town property" and the inclusion of wording "non water beverages" due to its impact on local businesses.

Chair Weinstein is unclear on how wording may, or may not, impact local businesses and he expressed concern about this.

Member Worthington would be comfortable with the wording for water and excluding "any other beverages".

Member Reed agreed and stated the Select Board should think about this from an impact study perspective.

Member Areson said that the Select Board's intent was to prevent the Town of Truro from purchasing single use water bottles. She is concerned about the wording "for sale on Town property". If the farmers market vendors wanted to sell something in a single use plastic bottle, this wording would prevent them from doing so. She thinks the Board needs to do some refining on the wording.

Member Rein agrees. She gave an example of the TEEA's fundraising efforts during Truro Treasures, which included selling hamburgers and a beverage. She is in favor of the Town shifting away from single use water bottles but does have apprehension in talking about town property as a whole, and certainly if it is going to affect local businesses. The language needs to be clearer.

Chair Weinstein believes that with all the questions raised, the Select Board is not ready to vote on this article as currently worded. Member Areson does not want the Board's reluctance to recommend the article in this form to impede the efforts to get water filling stations, etc. as discussed as part of the budget.

Discussion on the language changes occurred. Town Manager Tangeman summarized, stating that there is guidance to bring back language related to the "town property" question and also the language regarding "any other beverages".

Article 15: Non-Binding Public Advisory Questions for Increased Security at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station on Cape Cod Bay-Petitioned Article

Member Reed made a motion to recommend Article 15: Non-Binding Public Advisory Questions for Increased Security at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station on Cape Cod Bay-Petitioned Article as printed in the warrant.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Worthington-Aye

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

Article 16: Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts-Petitioned Article

Member Reed made a motion to recommend Article 16: Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts-Petitioned Article as printed in the warrant.

Member Rein Seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Member Weinstein-Aye

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

Article 17: Charter Amendment to Sections 3-1-1 and 6-4-2-Petitioned Article

Member Reed stated that as the liaison to the Charter Review Committee, she knows the Committee has spent a lot of time discussing this issue. She would like to give the Committee more time to speak to this and give a recommendation. Chair Weinstein agrees and advocates moving this to a future discussion. Town Manager Tangeman noted that the Charter Review Committee is not scheduled to meet until March 24th. Now that the Town Meeting has been moved to a later date, the Select Board has time to deliberate. Consensus is that the Board is happy to wait until April to talk about this article.

Article 18: Local Room Occupancy Tax Allocation-Petitioned Article

Town Manager Tangeman stated that this is a Finance article. He does not believe the Board would want to decide on this as they will be waiting for the Finance Committee to provide a recommendation.

Chair Weinstein would like to defer this to give the Finance Committee time to weigh in and to have Town Counsel review the language. All Board members agreed.

Chair Weinstein recused himself for the next article discussion.

Article 19: Charter Amendment to Section 2-2-4-Petitioned Article

Town Manager Tangeman stated that because they are waiting for the Charter Review Committee to meet on March 24th, he recommends they defer until they receive feedback from the Charter Review Committee. All Select Board members agreed to hold for Charter Review recommendation.

Chair Weinstein rejoined the Board.

Town Manager Tangeman said that the last two articles were advisory articles.

Article 41: Reduction of Truro's Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Zero by 2050

Member Areson made a motion to recommend Article 41: Reduction of Truro's Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Zero by 2050.

Member Reed Seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Article 42: Advisory Vote on the Use of Automated Tabulator

Town Manager Tangeman understands that the Select Board wants the public to weigh in on the discontinuation of the hand crank in favor of an optical scan tabulator. He noted that he has experience with an optical scan tabulator and that it increases efficiency and it is not subject to hacking nor is it connected to a network. It might be helpful to provide some education, and a video, to the public so they can be aware of the security and efficiency of the tabulator. Member Areson is in favor if hearing what the community has to say about it, and she is also in favor of having someone do another presentation on the tabulator prior to Town Meeting so people can be informed. Member Reed agrees with Member Areson's comments.

Member Areson made a motion to recommend Article 42: Advisory Vote on the Use of Automated Tabulator.

Member Worthington seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Creation of Native Peoples Committee

Helen McNeil Ashton gave an overview of how this request came about. The goal of creating the Committee is for the Town to be proactive in reassessing Town history, and in recognizing and honoring the role of Native peoples in our past and present. Examples given:

- A plaque on the river Pamet.
- A statue, or other memorial, to the Payomets at Corn Hill.
- Various educational initiatives.

She explained what the Truro Historical Society is looking for from the Select Board:

- She understands the Town's wish to not create more committees, and requests guidance on the best way forward
- The Truro Historical Commission agrees with the goals of this proposal and wrote a strong letter of support, but at the moment does not believe it should have a subcommittee that would necessarily include non-members of the Commission. They may consider specific proposals.
- The Truro Historical Society can establish a Native Peoples Committee on its own, including at least one representative of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and an educator, preferably with a Select Board liaison. She hopes that they genuinely have the support of the Select Board in this effort.

Ms. McNeil Ashton is asking for feedback from the Select Board about the goals set forth.

Annawon Weeden from the Institute for American Indian Studies joined the conversation, as well as Lynne Ready, an educator from Truro Central School. Mr. Weeden has volunteered to be a member on the Native Peoples Committee, and he gave an overview of discussions he has had with Wellfleet, Salem, Newton, and Wellesley. Ms. Ready would be very interested in working with the Historical Society or the Town of Truro to find ways to accurately represent our Native history and to make a connection with the Wampanoag people.

Member Reed asked if there were someone attending the meeting from the Historical Commission. She would like to hear from them why they do not support this as a subcommittee. There is a precedent in the community for non-members to be on subcommittees. Ms. McNeil Ashton stated that both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Historical Commission had competing engagements and could not attend.

Member Areson is the liaison to the Historical Commission, and this is the first she is hearing about this issue. She would be happy to reach out to the Chair and Vice Chair. Member Worthington is wondering if a Native Peoples Committee might be under the umbrella of the Historical Society if it does not work out with the Historical Commission.

Jim Summers, a member of the Historical Commission, stated that the full committee has not met on this request. The decision mentioned came from the Chair and Vice Chair. It appears to him that they would be able to work with the Select Board to make suggestions.

Member Areson suggested that the Historical Commission be invited to send a member to participate. There are enough people interested to carry the ball forward. Recommendations could be gathered and then brought before the Select Board. It was agreed that Member Areson extend the invitation to the Historical Commission.

Member Reed made a motion to defer this item until the Select Board hears from the Historical Commission.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Review and Approve Addition of Indigenous Land Acknowledgement at the Start of Town Meeting

Ellen Anthony is proposing some language that would be spoken at the beginning of each Annual Town Meeting. The purpose is to acknowledge and honor this land and the people who have been here for thousands of years. Ms. Anthony read the language aloud.

Member Reed asked Town Manager Tangeman if Town Counsel has looked at the language. Town Manager Tangeman stated that they have not. Chair Weinstein stated he had a conversation with a member of the Wampanoag Tribal Counsel and they wondered where this request came from. Chair Weinstein is troubled by the following language, which he would not support; *"The land on which we sit is the traditional unceded territory..."* That has legal implications. He cannot advocate for the Land Acknowledgement until Town Counsel has had a chance to weigh in. He understands the sentiment but cannot support the language in its current form.

Member Worthington thinks everyone would like something to be said, but she is also worried about some of the language. She thinks they should do some kind of acknowledgement, but it may be shorter in length.

Susan Howe stated that the Truro Historical Society, in working toward a new exhibition about the Wampanoag Nation, decided that they needed to have a land acknowledgement as part of the exhibition and as part of their philosophy as a Historical Society. They created a land acknowledgement and it is available for anyone to see on their website.

Member Rein also supports the sentiment and feels that something needs to be said at Town Meeting. She would like to have it vetted by Town Counsel before approving.

Ms. Anthony would like to know the timeline on Town Counsel reviewing the language. Town Manager Tangeman will send it to Town Counsel tomorrow morning and anticipates a response either before the next meeting on March 23rd or the first meeting in April.

Member Worthington made a motion to defer this item until hearing back from Town Counsel.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Consent Agenda

Member Areson asked DPW Director Cabral or Town Manager Tangeman to speak to the water main question that Joan Holt raised earlier in the meeting about the grant. She also asked Alice Boyd about the amount of the CDBG funds that were going to be administered by Bailey Boyd. She is curious as to how much money is involved.

Alice Boyd stated the grant is for 1.3 million dollars. That includes housing rehabilitation and childcare subsidies throughout the communities (4 Towns).

DPW Director Cabral stated that if there were a decision to limit the number of houses or units/rooms on the Cloverleaf, we would still need to install that same water main through the parcel and loop it into Firehouse Road. Doing so provides the Town with six additional fire hydrants; two along Highland, three within the Cloverleaf, and one on Route 6. Looping the water main into Firehouse Road would help with maintenance of the whole system. Member Areson asked if the MassWorks grant would be paying for this. DPW Director Cabral confirmed that she was correct.

Member Reed mentioned that there had been a bad fire on Bay View Road a couple of days ago and she watched the fire tenders go back and forth to fill up with water to fight this fire. She thinks this is a no-brainer from a life-safety and property conservation perspective.

Member Reed made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as printed in their packet.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Select Board Reports/Comments

Member Rein noted an omission of a Select Board meeting on the weekly reports.

Member Reed stated it was unsettling to witness a fire ½ a mile away from her home. Her heart goes out to the family that experienced the fire and her gratitude goes out to Truro Fire and shared services for their efforts. She acknowledged the loss of an animal.

Member Areson attended the Cape Cod Selectmen's Association meeting on Friday about the RTE and affordable housing. She also mentioned that Health/Conservation Agent Beebe gave an informative presentation about the current watershed study. The next Cape Cod Selectmen's Association meeting will be on water quality. She also heard from the Bike and Walkways Chair that there is a planned repaving of Route 6 coming (in several years) which will include sidewalks.

Chair Weinstein attended the School Committee meeting where there was an active discussion regarding the preschool program. As a result, the School Superintendent said it will be an object of future discussion. It is not something that they will do for the next school year as there are issues with classroom space and funding. There was an acknowledgement that the School may need to expand that program for a second classroom. Parents highlighted the lack of preschool programs in Truro. Chair Weinstein also mentioned that he was approached by the Chair of the Bike and Walkways Committee of Wellfleet and he was concerned about the extension of the rail trail.

Next Meeting Agenda

Town Manager Tangeman briefly summarized what was on the next Select Board agenda.

Member Reed would like to circle back to Nancy Kete and her appointment to the Climate Action Committee and discuss the letter from Peter Manso regarding Covid vaccinations and the Public Safety employees. The Town does not have a policy that requires the Public Safety employees to take the vaccine. Before authoring anything to Governor Baker they should discuss.

Member Areson added that if the Board wanted to consider Mr. Manso's comments, they would have to make that an agenda item. She would like to have an agenda item where the Board considers limiting the length of their meetings.

In relation to the preschool program, she asked if the Select Board might want to write a letter to the School Committee. She was very concerned with a parent's comments that staff members' children are getting preference over Truro taxpayers and residents. She would like the Select Board to take a stand that they think Truro taxpayers and residents should always have priority in the pre-k programs. Chair Weinstein thinks they need clarification from the School's superintendent.

Member Areson also mentioned that she has at least one email from someone who wants the Select Board to make a proclamation for Women's Month in March.

Chair Weinstein would like to place Peter Manso's request on a future agenda. He would like to hear from the Police Chief and the Fire Chief before the Board takes an action regarding Mr. Manso's concerns. Town Manager Tangeman believes KP Law has authored a liability memo on this topic which may be sent to the Select Board for review as well.

Member Reed made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm.

Member Areson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Respectfully submitted,



Noelle L. Scoullar, Executive Assistant



Town Manager, Darrin Tangeman

Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

Public Records material of 3/16/2021

1. Application to Serve-Rebecca Bruyn
2. Cleanup Stations Proposal
3. Town Meeting Articles
4. Letter from Truro Historical Society regarding formation of Native Peoples Committee
5. Grant Administrator Contract from Bailey Boyd Associates
6. Cloverleaf Community Housing Water Main Extension Agreement
7. Application to Serve-Alfred Gaechter
8. Approval Letter from Climate Action Committee Chair
9. January 26, 2021 minutes