

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021, at 3:00 pm
Via GoToMeeting Platform**

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

Select Board Members Absent: Member-Stephanie Rein

Other Members Present: Town Manager-Darrin Tangeman, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Clark, Recreation/Beach Director-Damion Clements, Beach Commission member-Shari Stahl, Chair-Bike and Walkways Committee-Susan Roderick

Chair Weinstein read off instructions on how citizens could join the meeting. He also explained that this would be a work session, and there would be no citizen participation. However, citizens are invited to watch. Member Areson wished to confirm that any chair of a committee participating in the work session would be allowed to speak. Chair Weinstein confirmed that chairs would be allowed to speak.

Discussion on Select Board's Childcare Voucher Program Article

Town Manager Tangeman stated that they have spoken to Town Counsel. They have determined that it's appropriate for the Select Board to create their version of Article 9: Fund a Childcare Voucher Program, even after the warrant is closed. A second suggestion is if they approve the proposed language and make it an article, the intent would be to place it just before the previous article and allow the petitioner to indefinitely postpone the petitioned article if the Select Board's version were to pass. The maximum number of two-year-olds this would benefit in the next fiscal year would be thirteen. He also reached out to a subject matter expert on childcare subsidy administration and the cost to administer the program of approximately \$15,000. The total sum of what the program would cost if we were to provide vouchers to every eligible two-year-old would be \$112,500.

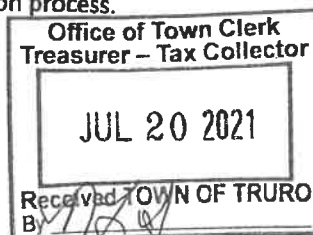
Discussion on Recreation Commission, Beach Commission, and Bike & Walkways Committee

Chair Weinstein has heard that Recreation/Beach Director Clements has not been able to staff the summer recreation program as he has in the past due to housing issues.

Recreation/Beach Director Clements confirmed that was correct. In the past, he generally has fifteen staff for the program. Currently, he has confirmed three staff members who are returning. He received two applications after extending the application deadline. He has to decrease the number of participants that they take into the program from approximately ninety to one-hundred participants down to roughly twenty-five participants. This also means the program can only handle Truro residents. Town Manager Tangeman has reached out to Town Counsel for potential innovative ways to recruit. Recreation/Beach Director Clements stated that once they get the program up and running, they can accommodate more people if they get more staff.

Chair Weinstein asked about eligibility requirements. Recreation/Beach Director Clements said that Truro residents (also known as Tier 1) do not include Truro employees.

Member Reed asked what accounted for the staffing issues this year. Recreation/Beach Director Clements stated that a considerable portion was that the program did not operate last year. Current returning staff found employment in other places. Housing is another significant factor. Member Areson wanted to know if there is a distinction between year-round Truro residents or people who are here seasonally. Recreation/Beach Director Clements stated that eligibility for Tier 1 does not distinguish between year-round and seasonal residents. He is working on the registration process.



Town Manager Tangeman met with Brian Carlstrom from the National Seashore and toured some of the available assets and facilities. That meeting brought a spotlight on the tools that Truro might want to consider in the future. The Seashore has several seasonal/transitional housing opportunities, which Truro might wish to acquire for the future. They have tools available to them to recruit that Truro does not have.

Member Areson has reviewed the information provided regarding the Boards, Committees, and Commissions, and she believes the Concert Committee is a wholly separate entity with a different charge, and she feels it does not belong with Recreation and Beach. Town Manager Tangeman stated that staff came to the same conclusion.

Recreation/Beach Director Clements stated that he took a look at the Boards, Committees, and Commissions to find common themes that they might share, as requested. The common theme that the Beach Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Concert Committee, and the Bike and Walkways Committee was recreation in general. One option is to consolidate the Beach and Rec Commissions. The Concert Committee should stand alone. The Bike and Walkways Committee is also recommended to remain as its own committee and one member of that committee could serve as a representative to the Recreation Commission. Member Worthington asked what the Beach Commission's response was. Beach Commission member Shari Stahl stated she was not aware of the recommendation, and she is not the Chair. She did speak to all members of the Commission before the meeting. She asked if Recreation/Beach Director Clements could read the charge of both commissions and what that would be like if they merged with the Recreation Commission. Recreation/Beach Director Clements gave a brief overview of both. Beach Commission Member Stahl asked if the objective of combining these commissions was administrative simplicity, or was it budgetary? Town Manager Tangeman said that from a Town-wide perspective, this initiative was prompted by sustainability issues in terms of appointing members. The Beach Commission isn't experiencing this right now, but it could in the future. There are other committees, specifically the Recreation Commission, that are having issues appointing representatives. The Town is looking for efficiencies and standard charges, goals, and objectives among the committees. Beach Commission Member Stahl stated that when she polled the Commission, everyone was very reluctant to consolidate.

In terms of process, Member Worthington stated she's unclear why they are not discussing these committees as a whole before they have a suggested change. Town Manager Tangeman noted that it was his understanding that all Select Board liaisons were to reach out to the committees being considered and have conversations with them before coming to the meeting today. If that did not happen, he apologizes to the Beach Commission. He then explained what would be expected of the Beach Commission in an advisory capacity upon merging the Recreation Commission with the Beach Commission. Member Reed asked Beach Commission member Stahl to speak more about the threat of being stifled if there were a merger. Beach Commission member Stahl stated that they are concerned that they will lose their voice, their focus, and their link to the Select Board if they are merged with other Commissions. Member Areson said the idea would be to add members that have significant interest in (and perhaps experience in) recreation. She also spoke about adding a high school-aged member. Some discussion was had regarding how fast this proposal was moving. Member Reed said that the Select Board is also reviewing all charges in the Town as they've noticed that some were created in the 90s and have not been updated. This is all part of an extensive process that they are at the beginning of. Member Worthington asked Beach Commission member Stahl if it would be valuable to have more Beach Commission members come to a meeting. Beach Commission member Stahl would like to hold a meeting with the Beach Commission first before returning to the Select Board. Ideally, she would like to have other members hear what the Select Board is saying.

Chair of the Bike and Walkways Committee, Susan Roderick, stated that it was helpful when Member Areson (Bike and Walkways liaison) joined their meeting initially as they were unaware changes were being discussed. She continued, stating that if the Beach Commission were not aware of the proposal, they would need some time to comprehend all of it. Member Worthington noted that the Beach Commission wasn't aware of what was going on because she did not tell them. She does not think that having just the liaison explain what's happening is enough. A "think tank" with the groups is a better way to approach it. Assistant Town Manager Clark wished to clarify that the recommendations for consolidation did not originate from Recreation/Beach Director Clements. The Select Board has been having conversations about this for a while. She, and Town Manager Tangeman, had asked select Department Heads to put together some information and provide options to the Select Board. Member Areson thinks it may be good to schedule a work session with the entire Beach Commission, and in the meantime, the Select Board should be thinking about what type of charge, pros and cons, and if the two commissions were combined what kind of charge they would have. Town Manager Tangeman thought a next step could be to bring together the Beach Commission and the Bike and Walkways Committee for the diversity of thought process. He also suggested conducting a "SWOT analysis" on the topic. They can survey everyone ahead of time so the Board will have some feedback to discuss. Member Worthington thinks it would be helpful to have in writing, to all members of Boards, Committees, and Commissions, some idea of what the Select Board is trying to accomplish. Member Areson agrees but thinks the letter should only be sent to the Boards, Committees, Commissions which may be affected. Town Manager Tangeman would like to send the letter to all, as some regulatory boards may absorb an advisory committee.

Review and Discuss Select Board Policy on Multi-Member Body

Both Members Reed and Areson have worked on this policy. There is a section that Member Reed would like to focus on at tonight's meeting to receive the Board's feedback. She narrowed in on the *Advisory and Ad Hoc* portion of the policy. This section is to define what would qualify as an ad hoc committee. Town Manager Tangeman asked; What constitutes a requirement to establish a committee? He gave various scenarios. Member Areson added that the Indigenous Peoples request is a perfect example. People came to the Select Board with the request. The Select Board thought they might be able to fit into another committee. The people went to that committee, had a hearing, and that committee said the request did not fit within their rules. The people have come back to the Select Board, asking that they create an ad hoc, time-limited committee. She feels the process worked, even without having a policy in place. Town Manager Tangeman stated that if some members of the Board feel a legal analysis should be done, they should seek counsel to see if a regulatory Board can absorb an ad hoc committee that does not change their statutory or regulatory authorities.

A review of the rest of the document continued. Member Areson would like a cleaned-up version placed into one of their upcoming packets.

A short discussion was had regarding topics for upcoming meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Noelle L. Scoullar


Darrin Tangeman-Town Manager

