

Select Board Work Session Minutes
April 29, 2021
Via GoToMeeting Platform

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

Others Present: Town Manager-Darrin Tangeman, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Clark,

Chair Weinstein opened the meeting at 4:00pm.

He stated it was incumbent upon the Board to review the existing Committees and their charges. There may be some Committees they can combine because some have commonalities.

Multi-member bodies consolidation discussion

Member Areson offered a couple suggestions on how to move forward. She also added that once their work was completed, they should hold a Public Hearing, in addition to notifying Board and Committee Chairs, so everyone who wishes to chime in has the opportunity to do so.

Town Manager Tangeman stated that there are currently 39 multi-member boards. The last one that dissolved was two or three years ago. For every committee created there is the potential for it to take more staff time and more dollars from the budget. Assistant Town Manager Clark would like to see the charges written out more clearly and look for where committees overlap or for where a charge is obsolete. Another recommendation from Town Manager Tangeman would be if a consolidation of two committees were to take place, all members from both committees would comprise the "new" consolidated committee and then a hold would be placed on filling vacancies that occurred so that natural attrition would occur until the committee came back to a membership of 5, or whatever appropriate membership number is identified.

Discussion on policy for the creation of multi-member entities in the future

Discussion was held amongst the Board regarding different things to look at during the design of a policy regarding the creation of a multi-member body such as:

- Cost
- Necessary staff support
- How long such a committee might need to exist in order to complete its mission
- What would be the criteria of creating a committee?
- Number of body members
- Regularity of meetings
- Consideration of the scope of committee
- Recommendation that committees do an annual review of their charge to make sure they're on track

Discussion about current multi-member body consolidation

Member Areson would like to spend one work session on Board of Health, Recycling, and Water Resources Oversight. Those are important issues for the Town. The Board of Health has a huge workload already and the Select Board might want to look at sub-committees of the Board of Health. Member Areson also suggested that there are committees that revolve around similar things, such as Beach, Recreation, and Bike & Walkways, or Board of Health and Water Resources. The Board may want

to have separate meetings or approach it in a way where like committees that may have a potential for consolidation would be discussed in detail at one meeting.

Members Reed and Areson agreed to work on formulating a policy to bring to the Select Board. Chair Weinstein mentioned that the Climate Action Committee and the Energy Committee both have commonalities, along with the Building Committee. That grouping could be another work session to discuss.

Member Reed brought up the possibility of the Recreation, Beach, Concert Committee and Bike and Walkways consolidating.

The Board reviewed the current list of boards, committees, and commissions.

Member Worthington suggested eliminating the Boards that were dead and gone: Herring River Restoration, PAYT Committee and PTRAC. She also has some concerns about consolidating Pamet Harbor Commission and Shellfish Advisory Committee. She's been a part of both committees for a long time, and she feels they have very separate agendas and goals.

Chair Weinstein stated that the Concert Committee had been mentioned a few times and asked if that could be linked with the Cultural Committee. Member Areson pointed out that the Cultural Council has special State statutes that apply.

Member Reed asked if there were any positives to consolidating the Pamet Harbor Commission and Shellfish Advisory Committee. Member Worthington believes that the people on the Pamet Harbor Commission would want to skip the shellfish meeting and vice versa.

Discussion was then held regarding the next work session agenda. Items were to include:

- A review of a proposed policy draft
- Consolidation of Recreation Commission, Beach Commission, and/or Bike and Walkways Committee (and other boards/committees which may fall under the recreation umbrella).
- Review of a list of defunct committees or committees which have outlived their usefulness.

Chair Weinstein wishes to invite the Chairs of the Recreation Commission, Beach Commission, and the Bike and Walkways Committee to this meeting. Member Reed would also like to include the Concert Committee in the discussion.

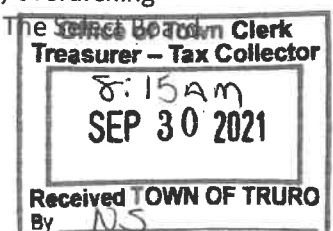
The second work session would be for:

- Board of Health, Recycling Committee and Water Resources Oversight Committee

Member Areson suggested the third work session could be for Pamet Harbor and Shellfish, and then any other Committees that may crop up along the way.

More discussion was held regarding the Select Board liaisons getting in touch with the Chairs of these committees, prior to the work sessions, to inform them of what is being discussed and to ask the chairs to work with the Board toward a mutually agreeable decision.

Member Reed asked if the Board wanted to talk about the case study related to the Native American Committee. Member Areson stated that where discussion was left on Tuesday was she would go back to Helen McNeil-Ashton, and the rest of the group, and tell them about the Board's discussion. She has not done that yet but will within the next few days. She thinks the Board should put that on a future agenda. Because this group came to the Select Board, Member Areson thinks the opportunity should be given to them to voice their opinion on whether they would be agreeable to a larger, overarching committee or whether it should be a committee specifically for indigenous people. The Board could then decide what action they wanted to take.



May 18, 2021, from 3-5pm, was chosen as the date for their next work session.

The work session adjourned at 5:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Noelle L. Scoullar



Darrin K. Tangeman-Town Manager
Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

