

**Truro Select Board Work Session**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 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; Town Accountant Trudi Brazil; Police Chief Jamie Calise; Fire Chief Timothy Collins

Janet Worthington opened the work session at 4:12 p.m., immediately after the regular meeting had been adjourned.

**Town Events**

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer said there had been no new applications for Town events.

**Harbor Operations**

Ms. Palmer said that the guidelines and signs for Massachusetts only vehicles at Pamet Harbor are in place. Signs are also posted for movement on the gangway. People are applying for moorings, and provisions are being made for fourteen out-of-state mooring holders who are Truro property owners to receive passes to park at the Harbor. Ms. Palmer said that additional signs for wearing masks and for social distancing will be posted at the Harbor as soon as the signs arrive.

Kristen Reed said that masks and informational materials were being distributed at Provincetown's Firehouse #3. She asked if Truro would consider doing something similar. Ms. Palmer said surgical masks are being reserved for medical personnel, but the Town is considering cloth masks for the other Town employees. However, there are budget concerns, she said. Fire Chief Timothy Collins said that cloth masks from FEMA have been given to the Health Agent and the Police Department. If Truro wants to develop a program like Provincetown's, he said that purchasing masks and other supplies for businesses was an available option. Janet Worthington suggested that masks could be available at the Fire Department. Health Agent Emily Beebe confirmed that hospital masks should not be given to the general public, but there could be a drive for donations of cloth masks made by members of the community. Chair Worthington said this could be advertised on the Town website. Ms. Palmer said the Town is obliged to provide masks for employees since they are required to wear them. Stephanie Rein suggested that masks for Town employees could be standardized. Non-medical grade masks should be available for the police to give motorists not wearing masks if they are stopped, according to Ms. Palmer. She said there will be further reports on masks at next week's meeting.

**Beaches and Ponds**

So far, there are one-way beach access paths, one at each end of the beaches. Some of the paths still need to be widened. The Beach Director will be installing new signs in a few days. Ms. Palmer said daily passes for Coast Guard Beach and Corn Hill are under discussion. A recommendation of social distancing of 12 feet at the beaches will mean decreases in parking spaces. Some towns are planning 25% and 50% reductions for parking spaces, and some towns are not reducing parking. Ms. Palmer

recommended that daily passes at Corn Hill and Head of the Meadow Beaches not be issued to create better social distancing and to avoid handling money at the location. Non-resident beach stickers for beaches still depends upon the governor's advice, she said.

Susan Areson asked about the side-by-side parking lots for Town-owned and Seashore-owned Head of the Meadow Beach, noting that whatever one does impacts the other one. She agreed about the not issuing daily passes, something that Wellfleet is already doing. Janet Worthington suggested eliminating the day passes at Corn Hill Beach but waiting to decide about Coast Guard Beach.

Stephanie Rein said that since Wellfleet is eliminating day passes, then Truro should too since beachgoers would head to Truro if they couldn't get into the Wellfleet beaches. Robert Weinstein said he was in favor of limiting day passes. He said he wants the National Seashore Superintendent to be on the same page because it would be too hard to have different regulations for side-by-side beaches. Rae Ann Palmer said she will try to schedule a meeting with Superintendent Brian Carlstrom. She knows that the Seashore has not been able to hire the summer staff yet. Kristen Reed said she agreed that daily passes should not be offered. She had liked the other idea of beach stickers for family members here for the summer. Susan Areson noted the amount of space on beaches, provided people are willing to spread out once they are on the beach. She said she would not like to see parking completely eliminated from any of the ocean beaches.

Returning to the discussion of the summer Recreation program, Mr. Weinstein asked for an update. Rae Ann Palmer said that the staff recommendation was to not go forward with the program because of safety considerations for children and staff. Recreation Director Damion Clements said that he does not have enough staff to go forward with the mandated safety guidelines. He said that the space at the Truro Central School could be available for the Farmers' Market. No one disagreed with the Town Manager's decision to suspend the Recreation program for this summer.

### **Town Buildings**

Rae Ann Palmer said that there is no municipal guidance yet on numbers in Town buildings. A provision for 25% allows about four people at Town Hall, so it's okay to plan office by office. Town buildings are not open to the public, but staff has been working in them. Plans are underway for social distancing inside. Plexiglass barriers will be installed. Two people will not be in one office at the same time. Ms. Palmer has authorized DPW Director Jarrod Cabral to do duct cleaning in all the buildings at a cost of around \$9,000. An upgrade to the HVAC system is needed to remediate dampness in the Town Hall basement. The Library staff will be returning on Monday. They will work in shifts to provide curbside pick-ups. Plans for the COA and Recreation staff are not set. Kelly Clark said almost all the written plans for departments have been completed.

Town Accountant Trudi Brazil and her Assistant Tami Francis have been working in their office in rotation since, she said on a lighter note, they have not been able to figure out a 25% ratio of themselves. Ms. Palmer said that the Treasurer/Collector staff and the Administrative staff – Liz Sturdy, Nicole Tudor and Noelle Scoullar – have been scheduling separate times to work in Town Hall. Emily Beebe said that the 25% rule does not need to be applied for critical service, but distancing rules do need to be observed. Rae Ann Palmer said that the work is getting done, but she will make a plan that shows what can be done at home. After the duct work has been completed, she is planning a trial reopening for the end of June. There have been no complaints about the buildings being closed, she said.

### **Playgrounds**

State guidance for reopening playgrounds comes in Phase 2. If Truro is not ready, it can wait until there is a plan in place for a safe environment. Stephanie Rein, although she loves the playground, expressed her apprehension about everything that would be touched and the difficulty of constant cleaning.

Robert Weinstein raised a budget concern about employees, but Rae Ann Palmer believed it to be a matter for an executive session. She said that employees are accurately reporting their hours.

### **Business Reopenings**

Chair Worthington said that Truro is still waiting for the governor's advice on reopening businesses. Kristen Reed asked about porta-potties and hand washing stations for business owners who are not comfortable about letting clients use their restrooms. Ms. Palmer said these are extremely expensive to maintain. Last year they cost \$45,000 at the beaches. This year the expense is over \$100,000. Hand washing stations will replace the hand sanitizers that were used last year. Kristen Reed asked about making some other facility like the Community Center available to the public. Susan Areson said that porta-potties were the best option at the present time.

### **Next Steps**

Select Board members and Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark planned a time for the next Reopening Task Force meeting when business owners Steve Roderick and Bob Montano could attend. They will be invited to the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is hope that Governor Baker will give more notice about the next phase of reopening before it starts.

### **Next Reopening Meeting Agenda**


The next meeting will cover the set agenda: Town events, Harbor operations, beaches & ponds, Town buildings, playground and business reopenings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended with a round of thanks for all Town staff and colleagues on the Board with observations on the difficulties of proceeding without state guidance and the time-consuming nature of the virtual meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary Rogers, Secretary



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

