



TOWN OF TRURO
HEALTH & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
24 Town Hall Road, Truro 02666
508-349-7004 x119

To: Truro Board of Health
From: Emily Beebe, Health & Conservation Agent
Date: April 12, 2024
Re: April 16 Agenda Item re: Annual Town meeting petitioned article "Senior Perc"

This petitioned Article (petitioner Anne Greenbaum.) would establish the Truro Senior Perks pilot program to run for 1 year. Residents 65 and above, with a motor vehicle registered in their name would be able to purchase a beach and a Transfer Station "sticker" for significantly reduced (75% off- or more) cost. It is not needs-based. Pilot period is Jan 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

The fee setting responsibility for Transfer Station permits resides with the Board of Health. If approved, the Board would need to amend their regulations to establish a new fee. The current fee is \$100.

This article proposes a second alternative to the original petitioned article (#15) in the STM. The Special Town meeting article #8 (Senior Pass non-binding resolution) would also establish a Pilot program. Both articles are attached for your reference.

The recommendation of the Board of Health must be reported to the Annual Town meeting.

Pre -Annual Town Meeting - April 24 from 5:30-7 PM -a hybrid meeting at the Community Center

Special Town Meeting, followed immediately after with the Annual Town Meeting- Saturday May 4 -registration begins at 8:30, the Special Town meeting starts at 10 AM
This meeting will be in-person at the Ballfield of the Truro Central School

SENIOR PASS NON-BINDING RESOLUTION

Article 8: Advisory Vote on Implementation of a Senior Pass Pilot Program

To see if the Town will vote to recommend to the Select Board to research a Senior Pass Pilot Program that results in elimination or reduction of fees for transfer station access and beach permits for Truro property owners and resident seniors of an age to be determined and as defined by the Select Board on a one-year pilot program basis that would be effective in Fiscal Year 2025. The terms, requirements and costs of this Program shall be determined by the Select Board and shall require Board of Health approval as appropriate and may be contingent on an appropriation vote at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. The administration of the program shall be overseen by the Select Board or its designee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

Explanation: A petitioned article asking the Town to approve a Senior Pass that “shall eliminate fees for transfer station and beach permits for Truro property owners and other resident seniors aged sixty (60) years and over” and would include a one-time fee of \$50 per recipient that would grant passes in perpetuity was submitted for town meeting consideration at the 2023 Special Town Meeting. As town meeting is not an authorized fee-setting body in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, the Select Board prepared an alternative article that would allow town meeting to provide an advisory vote on a similar program in the form of a non-binding resolution. The proposed article provides for guidance on a pilot program, similar to the pilot program established in 2021. A pilot program would allow the Select Board, the Board of Health, the Finance Committee, and staff an opportunity to study:

- *the costs associated with such a program;*
- *implementation challenges;*
- *potential needs for Board of Health Regulation changes or Rules and Regulations for Beach Sticker Eligibility for Taxpayers, Residents, and Visitors;*
- *funding sources to mitigate the reduction in receipts;*
- *most appropriate residency and age requirements for the program;*
- *ways to address transference of passes;*
- *ways to address changes in residency;*
- *and other key considerations of establishing a long-term program.*

If town meeting votes favorably on this article, these various factors will be considered over the course of the FY2025 budget preparation process so that a pilot program may be implemented for implementation in FY2025 (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025). These factors will be further studied during the implementation of the pilot program and may result in a future town meeting article requesting the necessary appropriation to make this program a permanent program.

	In Favor	Not In Favor	Abstain
Finance Committee Recommendation	0	5	0
Board of Health Recommendation			
Select Board Recommendation	5	0	0

Article: An Article to Establish the Truro Senior Perks Pilot Program - Petitioned Article

To see if the Town will vote to establish the Truro Senior Perks Program as a 1-year pilot program. This program shall provide eligible Truro Seniors with one (1) Resident Beach Stickers and one (1) Transfer Station Permit for a significantly reduced cost. The Program shall be open to Truro residents age 65 and older.

- Applicants must provide proof of age such as a driver's license, passport, birth certificate or other public record.
- The program is open to seniors who have a motor vehicle registered in their name in Truro
- There shall be One (1) Senior Perks membership per household
- The fee for the Senior Perks Transfer Station permit shall be set by the Board of Health. It is recommended that the fee not exceed 25% of the fees for a Resident sticker.
- The fee for the Senior Perks Beach Permit shall be set by the Select Board. It is recommended that the fee not exceed 25% of the fees for a Resident Beach sticker.
- The physical Beach Sticker shall be the Resident Beach sticker
- The Pilot Program shall run from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. A report shall be submitted to the Select Board by March 1, 2026. The report will include the number of participants and the revenue not received by the town because of the program.

, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Requested by Citizen Petition

Petitioners' Explanation: The purpose of this article is to provide some financial support to seniors in Truro who have limited funds. While it is a small amount of money it is a gesture of respect to our seniors. Participation is voluntary. We hope after reviewing the report, the Town decides to make this program permanent.

Select Board Comment: This article was submitted by petition for consideration at Town Meeting.

	In Favor	Not In Favor	Abstain
Finance Committee Recommendation			
Select Board Recommendation			