



TRURO
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TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of Thirteenth Annual Meeting – Truro Community Center- July 4, 2009

Citing a quorum, President Regan McCarthy opened the meeting and introduced existing board members to an assembly of more than 70 attendees. She also introduced Town Board of Selectmen Chairman, Gary Palmer and Bill Worthington of the Town Planning Board. They were joined by Police Chief John Thomas.

The minutes of last year's meeting, which had been distributed, were approved.

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2009-2010.

The Organization continued to maintain a robust membership in numbers and accordingly the organization is in sound financial condition. The organization's Treasury has \$126,899 after contributions to the Town for the Tercentennial and sponsorship of the Tercentennial programs at the Payomet Theater. The scholarship fund which TNRTA has supported and encouraged has been a modest success helping to enable two deserving students to receive scholarship awards.

Attendees were urged to renew and to recruit others to join the TNRTA.

President McCarthy focused her remarks on **future growth and development** in Truro. She said responsible growth and development is TNRTA's key issue for the coming year. There is enormous pressure to develop Beach Point with new cottage colonies which in turn would join the growing numbers of such colonies that are being converted to condos. These would add to the environmental stresses in the area associated with water resources, septic needs, traffic, noise and congestion. Similarly there are new developments and modifications of existing properties which are seriously eroding the character of the Town. TNRTA feels that zoning regulations that will manage the Town's inevitable growth are necessary. These regulations which would aim at promoting growth which is in keeping with Truro's character must be fair, clear, enforceable and enforced.

TNRTA has strongly advocated an open discussion and process which keeps voters informed on all the issues. We have and will continue to support a public information campaign on growth and its implications. In addition we will continue to work with the Planning Board and others to develop zoning and lot coverage rules.

Gary Palmer was introduced and gave a brief "State of the Town" review. He said the Town "is in good shape for the next couple of years." He can see no reason for any tax increases or service reductions in that timeframe. He and the Board are focusing on process and working on transparency. He would like the official business of the Town conducted in public and in the open. To that end a task force of the Finance Committee is reviewing all Town departments and their budgets and expenditures.

The Board of Selectmen are also working with neighboring towns to explore possible regionalization of certain services such as Police and Fire and Cape wide computer networks.

The Town continues its discussions and work with Provincetown to obtain additional water sources. There is a need for redundancy in the water supply to accommodate peak usage and any contingent failures. The plan is to identify and lease or acquire a wellfield which includes Truro in the management process.

Mr. Palmer closed his remarks mentioning the 300th Anniversary and referring people to The Provicetown Banner and the Town website.

The next speaker was **Bill Worthington**, representing the Planning Board. He made remarks about the recent proposals that went before the Town voters and acknowledged that more work was needed on getting clarity on all the issues. As a result, the immediate focus of the planning Board is on Site Plan Review By-Laws. They want to develop regulations that apply to the whole town using a "neighborhood concept". They would aim to limit things such as "mansionization" by limiting cubic volume, percentage of lot covered and comparing proposed building to neighboring houses. To manage the condo conversions there will be a requirement that a motel or cottage colony must be in that business for three years before applying for conversion.

There then ensued a specific set of questions and responses about a business called Truro Adventures on the DeGiovanni property on Old Colony Road. Neighbors, some in attendance, complained about noise and congestion when the property which contains numerous buildings is rented out for weddings and other such events. Police Chief Thomas said there were now police going to the site with decibel meters to determine if indeed lawful decibel levels are exceeded. The neighboring group, which has become organized is recording and reporting incidents and questions how a business like this can be run at this location.

Following this discussion the meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Submitted by

Frank Korahais, Secretary