



TRURO
NON-RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of Thirteenth Annual Meeting – Truro Community Center- July 3, 2010

Citing a quorum, **TNRTA President Regan McCarthy** opened the meeting and introduced existing board members to an assembly of more than 60 attendees. She also introduced guests **Curtis Hartman, Chair of the Town Board of Selectmen**, and **John Lundborn, Acting Chief of Police**.

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

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2010-2011.

TNRTA continues to maintain a robust membership, representing more than 500 households and accordingly the organization is in sound financial condition. The organization's Treasury exceeds \$135,000.

In her remarks, **Regan McCarthy** mentioned the very active support TNRTA has provided, making a difference in local cultural and community activities. She added there is a greater sense of community overall between year round and seasonal residents and no longer a large divide as people's consciousness has grown with regard to management of land, water, air, beaches and noise and light pollution.

TNRTA remains committed to open presentation and dialogue so that plans and implications are as clear as possible to aid decision making going forward. Tensions in Town continue over development and growth. This is evidenced in the difficulty in getting clear rules governing development and processes by which business is developed in Town. An example is the Tradesmen's Park business on Route 6. The site is the one which caused controversy years ago when Stop&Shop sought to build a market there. A piece of the property was then proposed for development as a site for storage, parking and workspace for local trades people. Approval was given for limited use and parking with appropriate landscaping and cover, and no retail activities. To date the property has not been used by the trades people. The developers and owners of the property have requested approval to expand the uses of the property. TNRTA reviewed the plans that were submitted and expressed concerns that the proposed changes were not clear. The Planning Board agreed saying the application was incomplete and asked for a clear plan.

Another similar issue concerns the possible conversion of condos to year round properties. Again there is a need to have thoughtful discussion about the benefits, problems etc with understanding of all the implications

TNRTA has asked for "open and transparent processes" by which such plans would be reviewed in the future.

TNRTA is offering expertise and services of seasonal residents to the Town to that end TNRTA is on the committee to select a new Chief of Police, and has offered to have someone on the proposed Economic Development Committee.

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 that make sense and that are enforceable.

Curtis Hartman described the State of the Town as “healthy” adding that there are numerous questions and issues regarding **finance, development and environment** as well as **public safety**.

In **finance**, Hartman credited the prudence of the Board of Selectmen and good fortune in terms of debt service rates, with helping keep expenses down, but revenues and assessments could be declining due to general economic conditions. Therefore all departments are to undergo function and budget reviews. Salaries and benefits, particularly medical insurance and pensions are a large expense factor therefore any requests for new positions must be defended vigorously. In addition, energy costs overall are being examined and departments have committed to reduce annual energy expense by 10%.

The Town’s infrastructure is essentially sound and no major capital projects are envisioned.

The Town is exploring possibilities for alliances with neighboring towns to share some services.

In terms of revenue, fee structures are being examined for possible opportunities to add to Town receipts.

In the area of **development and environment**, Hartman focused on goals of keeping families in Town, and balancing the need for development and the need for continued conservation and preservation.

The Town continues to grow the affordable housing stock, and current economic conditions have made it possible for some local families to purchase and rent locally.

Hartman cited the recently passed Wetlands By Law, work to replenish beach sand, and modest success in controlling growth of condos and cottages on Beach Point. In addition in a recent Water Site lease agreement Provincetown has committed to new water conservation measures and Truro is now represented on the Water Board.

People are showing greater concern for managing land use and growth but the changing mood has not resulted in meaningful laws in terms of house size and building plan site reviews. And, projects such as Tradesmen’s Park, Truro Adventures, and the Kline property are examples over the struggle between development and conservation advocates.

Speaking on Public Safety issues, Hartman addressed the need for continued improvement in performance and management of Fire, Police and Ambulance services. He said fire and ambulance services remain viable as volunteer services with well trained volunteers performing the required duties.

The Town is presently focused on the need to hire a new Police Chief. Hartman and **John Lundborn** who is acting Chief and a candidate for the position agreed that the Police Department needs to be a more open organization with greater transparency regarding its methods, needs and services and greater outreach to the community at large. They both answered questions regarding police cruisers, road safety, crime and emergency services.

Hartman’s remarks included praise for the Truro School and the evidence of a stronger sense of community through such efforts as Puma Park, the “AgFair” and growing volunteerism throughout Town.

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Submitted by

Frank Korahais, Board Secretary