



TRURO
NON-RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of Seventeenth Annual Members' Meeting
Truro Community Center
Saturday, July 7, 2012

Citing a quorum, **Regan McCarthy, TNRTA President**, opened the meeting and introduced existing board members to an assembly of more than 60 attendees. She also introduced guests, **Massachusetts State Representative Sarah Peake; Chair of the Town Board of Selectmen, Breon Dunigan; Town Administrator, Rex Peterson; and Police Chief Kyle Takakjian.**

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Members' Meeting, which had been distributed, were approved.

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2012-2013.

TNRTA continues to maintain a solid membership and the organization is in sound financial condition.

In her remarks, **Regan McCarthy** announced that the TNRTA continues to be a positive force in Truro, making a difference in local cultural, community and economic activities, including state and local taxation. For example, the past year TNRTA was actively engaged in the committees for *Economic Development* and *Bicycle and Walkways* planning, and in monitoring the *FAIR Plan Home Insurance* rate setting process at state levels. TNRTA also made donations to numerous civic, medical and cultural organizations on which non-residents and the entire community rely for assistance and enrichment.

It is increasingly clear that the interests of seasonal and year round residents coincide more than they differ. Indeed, TNRTA is increasingly sought out by all sectors of the citizenry on a range of continuing and emerging issues such as coastal erosion, zoning regulations and definitions, building a sustainable and green environment and economy, including home farming and aquaculture.

The issue of building and development continues to be an important one. There is general agreement that building size needs to be regulated in some way. However, despite a simple majority of votes over the past three Annual Town Meetings (2010-11-12) for such regulation, recent proposals of regulations have failed to reach the required 2/3 majority at Town Meeting. TNRTA continues to press the Town to consider the adequacy of its definitions of *"street"*, *"alteration"* and to create a definition of *"commercial"* activity and zones to protect residential areas from industrial/commercial encroachment and activity. As in the past we will continue to work with various parties involving varied vested interests to develop zoning regulations that make sense, are broadly acceptable, and that are enforceable. All of these issues remain in the forefront as the Town undergoes changes in BOS leadership, a new Town Administrator, new Police Chief, an expected re-organization of Truro Fire & Rescue Department, and changes in IT Director and Assessor, among others.

Attending members present praised TNRTA for its efforts and its work on communicating Town issues and information in Newsletters and emails and the TNRTA web site.

Town Administrator Rex Peterson described various Town initiatives he has taken a lead in since assuming his role as Town Administrator in October of 2011. These include: financial and operational management efficiencies: grant proposals for additional childcare and development funding; a Cape-wide program ("Open Cape") to bring internet and cable resources to underserved parts of Town and to encourage residents to

telecommute as the Cape seeks to become less reliant economically on tourism; and a comprehensive forward-looking study on water resource and solid waste management. Peterson reported that Town finances are sound. He added he is working with the Selectmen on development of their goals as well as processes for their implementation and review. He closed by inviting attendees to visit the Town web site and to view key official meetings broadcast on local cable TV.

State Representative Sarah Peake represents seven towns of the Outer and Lower Cape. She is State House Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, all issues that are so important to the Outer Cape in particular. The committee is looking into a fast growing segment of the Commonwealth's economy and a source of revenues from hotel room taxes, meal taxes as well jobs and added economic activity associated with tourism, arts and culture statewide. Peake reported that State Bond ratings are at a AA+ level thereby enabling borrowing at less expense and described job creating infrastructure and economic safety net projects, aid to localities, aid to education, added funding to the Community Preservation Program and more state funds for affordable housing. She reported that she is among sponsors of a State Insurance Bill looking at the cost drivers of FAIR Plan and private insurance premiums. They have engaged meteorologists and three modeling companies to focus on the accuracy of weather models throughout the State. At this time the Bill is still in Committee.

Police Chief Kyle Takakjian, new Police Chief, presented an overview of changes in structure and personnel within the Department and discussed a number of initiatives to improve home safety, especially for elders; traffic safety, especially near the school; and the issues faced by the Truro PD in training, hiring, and retaining qualified officers, and more.

Q&A and discussion from members focused on highway and road safety. There were questions of driver texting, enforcement of speed limits, and even studies to examine possibility of lower speed limits on smaller roads. Questions arose about beach erosion control and possibility of beach nourishment but there was little new information except general agreement the corrective measures thus far are "band aids" and that having homes in and on dunes was a risky proposition. Further questions were raised about home insurance costs and the weather models used for the Cape.

Other questions were about the use of residential properties for commercial use (e.g., Truro Adventures, Hedgebound); the accuracy of a reported increase in home break-ins and crime in general; and about size and staffing of the Police and Fire & Rescue Departments (Police force is presently at 10 officers, budgeted for 12, with the 2 additional candidates receiving training; Fire & Rescue presently is directed by a Fire Chief who reports to a Board of Fire Engineers who is appointed by the Selectmen. The Town is considering the most effective ways to supervise and organize the Department.)

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM

Submitted by:
Frank Korahais, Board Secretary