



TRURO
NON-RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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**Minutes of Eighteenth Annual Members' Meeting
Truro First Congregational Church
Saturday, July 6, 2013**

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, **Chair of the Town Board of Selectmen, Jay Colburn; Kevin Kuechler of the Water Resource Oversight Committee; and Police Chief Kyle Takakjian.**

The minutes of the 2012 Annual Members' Meeting, which had been distributed, were approved.

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2013-2014.

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 as a positive force in Truro, making a difference in local cultural, community and economic activities. For example, TNRTA has continued its active involvement in 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. As an example, the Organization has collected \$1675 from its members this year, to be contributed to the Truro Scholarship Fund.

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, for the fourth consecutive year there is no definitive rule governing building size. 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. A Public Safety ruling was made stating that roads have to be at least 8 feet wide with a height clearance of 14 feet, to accommodate emergency vehicles.

The Town is faced with the need to reorganize its Fire department at this time as well.

The Town Bicycle and Walkways plan which would allow for extension of a safe path from Wellfleet through Truro to Provincetown. The National Seashore is considering the merits of possible routes.

As in the past we will continue to work with the Town on these important issues affecting quality of life and safety in Town.

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.

Chair of the Board of Selectmen Jay Colburn, in the position just a few months, described his background and discussed the state of the Town and challenges ahead. He cited his wish for open, cooperative government which includes everyone whether year round or seasonal resident. He pointed to the idea that everyone wants a Truro that remains rural, a place with reasonable economic opportunity and a place that enables young and old to live affordably and comfortably.

He broadly addressed themes such as: financial planning and management; the need for a Town long range plan that identifies key priorities; prudent management of the environment, communication and transparency; and closer working relationships with neighboring Towns.

Kevin Keuchler- Water Resource Oversight Committee described the Committees efforts to address water management issues including water quality, availability, and waste water impact, and educating the Town on water issues

Important accomplishments include securing 3 seats on the Provincetown water board,(Provincetown relies on Truro wellfields for its water supply.) Moving forward with plans to test nitrate levels in Town water and citizens' homes water, secured funding to focus on areas of Town with high nitrate levels in water, examination off storm runoff effects on Cape Cod Bay and Town waterways.

Kuechler advised that septic systems should be examined and cleaned every three years. He also advised that residential well water be tested for nitrates and other contaminants.

Police Chief Kyle Takakjian, provided an update on Police Department staffing and professional development. The department has four new officers, and has initiated a number of outreach programs in the community including home and road safety, participation in Cape emergency evacuation preparedness programs and school programs. He stressed sound budgeting and financial management and is striving to display the budget on a "line by line" basis.

Q&A and discussion from members focused on beach erosion and safety, kettle pond water quality. And animal control. There were also questions regarding road safety with added bicycle and pedestrian traffic as well as the need for more and clear posting of speed limits with rigorous enforcement. A member suggested including road safety guidelines as handouts at the Beach Office and in rental agents offices.

Questions were again raised about the use of residential properties for commercial use (e.g., Truro Adventures, Hedgebound).

Other question were regarding possible rental taxes. Selectman Colburn suggested such a tax could be in the form of a "sales" tax to be paid by the renter not the property owner.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

Submitted by:
Frank Korahais, Board Secretary