



TRURO
NON-RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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DRAFT--Minutes of Twentieth Annual Members' Meeting--DRAFT
Truro First Congregational Church Meetinghouse
Saturday, July 4, 2015

Citing a quorum, **Regan McCarthy, TNRTA President**, opened the meeting and introduced existing board members to an assembly of more than 50 attendees. She also introduced guest speaker, Jay Coburn current member and former Chair of the Truro Board of Selectmen.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Members' Meeting, which had been distributed, were unanimously approved.

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2015-2016.

In her remarks, **Regan McCarthy** spoke of TNRTA's continued role as a positive force in Truro, making a difference in local cultural, community and economic activities. For example, TNRTA Board members play active roles on the *Economic Development* and the *Bicycle and Walkways* Committees. The Organization has a strong membership base and is in sound financial condition with more than \$160,000 in its accounts. As in prior years TNRTA made donations to numerous civic, health and cultural organizations on which non-residents and the entire community rely for assistance and enrichment.

McCarthy reported that the Town has hired a new Administrator, Rae Ann Palmer. It is envisioned that her role will be more extended than that of her predecessors. In discussing Town finances McCarthy pointed to a need for a more transparent process regarding the School budget which increases more than the rest of Town expenditures increase. Increases in expenditures are often related to "special ed" needs which are subject to Town and State dictates.

In addition two topics which could have long term impact emerged from The Annual Town Meeting –Definition of Street and Street Adequacy; and Year Round Condo use. An attempt to pass a definition for streets/roads at Town Meeting failed. TNRTA has taken a position that clarification of street definition is important. Currently, 242 Of 346 roads in Truro do not comply technically with a requirement for a 40' wide right of way. This could affect homeowners who seek building permits—although no such limit has been enforced beyond that of the Kline case. Proposals to consider year round condo use also failed. TNRTA would hope that the issue can be fully explored with an eye toward full impact on Town resources and zoning rules.

McCarthy added that as in the past the Town also needs clear definitions of "Residential" and "Commercial" usage---particularly as condo expansion continues.

Selectman **Jay Coburn** provided an overview of the past year in Town and a sense of issues ahead. He reported pleasure in the hiring of Rae Ann Palmer as Town Administrator, following an extensive search. Ms. Palmer brings many years of experience in municipal government in Hartford CT and her role as a Town Assistant Administrator in Massachusetts. The Selectmen and Department Heads are pleased with her performance thus far and hope she will enable the Selectmen to focus on larger issues as she takes added responsibility for day to day management. In addition Paul Morris retired as Director of the Dept. of Public Works. He has been replaced by Jay Morton.

Coburn went on to say the previous winter was very severe in terms of snow fall, snow removal and effect of storm damage on beaches. Balston Beach in particular was once again overrun. At this point there is no clear plan for how to deal with the episodic overruns at Ballston. There is a growing opinion that the best thing is to let nature take its course and allow a tidal flow to the Pamet. The recent damage has further reduced parking

at Ballston. In answer to a question regarding beach parking Coburn said a plan to add 9 spaces on S.Pamet Road was withdrawn following opposition from neighboring homeowners. Town and Beach Commission are still looking for some relief of parking problems.

With regard to Town finances, Coburn said a rigorous exercise led to an annual increase of approximately \$700K (Roughly 2%). Most of the increase was for professional hiring in the Fire Dept. and overall increases in costs of health insurance and a new Town truck to replace one damaged in snow removal. In Coburn's words there "is no fat" in the budget which was subjected to line by line review by the BOS and at Town Meeting.

Coburn added that two changes to Town Charter will be proposed for 2016—both directed to the elevated role of the Town Administrator. One would involve a change in title from TA to Town Manager, and the other would specify the TM role as having day to Day responsibility for Town operations including Public Safety. The BOS would continue to be responsible for hiring Fire, Police etc., but Town Mgr. would manage daily operations.

Coburn spoke to street definition and the Condominium bylaw. He said while clear street definition would be good, that Bertram Perkel, Head of the Zoning Board, indicated no cases or disputes have come before the ZBA because of street issues. With regard to the Condo bylaw, he expressed disappointment that measure did not pass. He thinks there is a larger housing issue in Truro as available affordable housing becomes less available. Those serving the Town, or elders who want to downsize will not afford to live in Truro.

At the present time there are approximately 1800-1900 Non-Resident households in Truro and approximately 2000 year round residents --- a declining number. Unless some sources of additional revenue can be identified, according to Coburn, the fiscal burden will fall more and more on to Non-Residents. They are looking to higher fees and possible pay as you drop at the Transfer Station.

Coburn reported that the Cape has a serious drug problem. A joint task force is focused on increases in heroin and crystal meth use and trafficking. The Town Police now have a "K-9" unit with a drug sniffing dog paid for by the Police Association.

In closing, Coburn said the BOS have developed six broad public service and governance values which appear on the Town website. The six values affirm Excellence in service overall, Integrity, Openness and Transparency, Protection of the Environment and Town History, Fiscal Integrity, and Diversity.

TNRTA Board member, Cathy Haynes, who has a Civil Engineering background and heads the Town Bicycle Ways and Walkways Committee (BWWC) presented a status on the Committee's work and recommendations which will be presented to the BOS in the weeks ahead.

The Committee has developed and promoted plans with the Town and State DOT to improve safety for walkers and cyclists in Town and has asked for additional safety measures on Route 6

The Cape Cod Commission's goal is to extend the "Cape Cod Rail Trail" through Wellfleet and Truro to Provincetown. They have asked Truro via the BWWC to recommend possible pathways through Town. The BWWC is proposing a combination of back roads and a multi-use portion of Route 6 as the favored alternative.

There is still much work to be done. They hope to have definitive plans with the CCC by year end and in any case, according to Haynes, a true Bicycle and walking path may be as far off as ten years in the future. This means current roadways need to be made safer. To that end the BWWC and the Truro PD, are working with the state on Route 6 and back road speed limits and clearer markings and signage

Following a brief Q&A, in which members in the audience said the Non-Residents already bear most of the financial burden, want every day access to the "dump" and easier access to beach parking and parking permit stickers, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM

Submitted by:
Frank Korahais, Board Secretary