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NON-RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of Twelfth Annual Meeting – Truro Library- July 5, 2008 - **DRAFT—Pending Approval**

Citing a quorum, President Regan McCarthy opened the meeting and introduced existing board members to a standing room only assembly of more than 60 attendees. She also introduced Town Board of Selectmen Fred Gaechter, the outgoing Chair and newly elected Chairman, Gary Palmer

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

The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2007-2008. New Board member Jane Bullowa was introduced, and outgoing Board member Gwyn Korahais, was thanked for many years of service to TNRTA.

The Organization experienced a highly successful year in terms of membership, which achieved record levels. For the year July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, TNRTA had 518 members including 61 new members. Accordingly, the organization is in sound financial condition. The organization made generous contributions to the Town Library, the planned Town playground "Puma Park", and is encouraging members to contribute to these efforts as well as the Town Scholarship Fund through an earmarked contribution accompanying their payment of annual dues. Attendees were urged to renew and to recruit others into the Organization.

In her remarks President McCarthy addressed the following:

TNRTA continues to have a **role** in terms of involvement in Town issues. We are heard and treated with consideration and continue our involvement with various committee efforts.

Truro will be celebrating its **300th anniversary** on July 16, 2009. Various commemorative events will take place between May and November of 2009. Town is looking for ideas and volunteers to celebrate the anniversary. As indicated, TNRTA is supporting the anniversary programs with a donation and encouraging all to become involved.

The Town has embarked on a **Water Testing Project** to establish a baseline understanding of water quality in various areas of Town. Residents can have their water tested as part of the project.

There is growing interest in addressing development and zoning issues as pressure grows for additional building and expansion of homes and businesses. Recent plans to enlarge and develop certain properties within the Seashore have raised concern and a need for comprehensive rules. To that end, the Planning Board hopes to gain approval for **new Zoning By Laws**, for the entire Town, including the Seashore.

Homeowner insurance costs and coverage are of continued concern. Old and new insurance business is being directed to the MA State sponsored **Fair Plan** whose rates are spiraling upward. This issue affects year-round and seasonal residents Cape wide. Guest speaker Paula Aschettino, Chair of the grass roots organization Citizens for Homeowners Insurance Reform addressed the group.

In her remarks Achettino pointed out that Cape homes are rated for insurance similarly to properties in Florida and areas in hurricane zones. As a result premiums are very high. The evidence suggests that is incorrect and unfair treatment since the Cape does not suffer hurricane damage like those areas.

A new MA bill in the Senate (Bill 2639) is supposed to remedy some of the problems, but Asschetino reports it does not and is totally lacking in requiring full disclosure and transparency of the process.

Aschettino, encouraged all to become involved by understanding their own policies and by communicating with state legislators O'Leary and Peake calling for a better bill than the proposed Senate Bill 2639. She also asked that people join the Citizens group.

Selectman **Fred Gaechter, former Chair of the Truro Board of Selectmen**, also spoke to the group. He praised TNRTA leadership for its involvement and the level of discourse regarding Town issues.

Selectman Gaechter spoke of **Town budgetary issues** saying there would be no need for any override for the second year in a row. He mentioned that fiscal matters remain challenging. The BOS is looking for ways to increase revenues through some of the Town licensing and permitting activities. In addition a recent controversy over the Police budget has led the Selectman to do a line by line review of all Town department budgets. In comments about the **building and zoning issues** in Town, Gaechter expressed his support for a comprehensive look at all zoning by laws. Other comments were about renewed discussions to **replace the current N. Truro PO with a new one** across from the Village Café, stopping business events on the **Carlins Way property** which is used for weddings and other events; the limits on progress with **affordable housing**; the need to address the questions of **four season use of condo properties**; and a desire to create a Cape wide **wireless Internet** capability.

Gaechter took and answered member questions about zoning, bike and walking paths throughout Truro, the "sidewalk" installed on Route 6 so that students from the School could safely get to the Town Safety Facility in the event of an emergency, and beach sticker fees for "Trusts".

The business of the meeting was concluded and the meeting adjourned shortly after Noon..