

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Along with one of the toughest winters on the ground in a long time - more than 80 inches of snow by the end of March - Truro weathered a series of important, sometimes challenging, and mostly constructive public transitions and conversations over the winter. Our new Town Administrator, Rae Ann Palmer, brings exceptional experience and judgement to her work, and has already impressed us with her open, engaged and effective leadership. We are fortunate to have Rae Ann join us.

The current roster of Selectmen continues with the re-election of Jan Worthington and Jay Coburn to 3-year terms. Jay has decided not to serve as Chairman going forward and at the time of writing this, a new Chairperson had not been selected. We always remain grateful for Jay's service as Chairman. He encouraged and advanced a goal-based, transparent leadership style in the governance and operations of Truro.

The voters also re-elected Lisa Tobia to the Planning Board and elected first-timer John Riemer on a write-in campaign to the PB. Sally Brotman and Keith Althaus were elected library trustees, Robert Masson was elected to the cemetery commission, Rebecca Townsend and Michelle Jarusiewicz were elected to the school committee, and Jeannette de Beauvoir was elected to the housing authority. Thanks and congratulations to all!

At All Town Meeting on April 28, voters took an unusually long 22 minutes to approve a budget for FY 2016 of **\$17,795,825.25**. This compares to the approved budget of **\$16.73 million (\$17.087 MM with**

**overrides)** for FY 2015. There were no seriously contested items, and budget questions were few. Two budget override articles, totaling \$203,000, were adopted at ATM and approved by ballot at the elections on May 12, explained within. The additional one-year tax increase for these overrides will be \$50.70 for a property assessed at \$500,000. On May 6, the BoS voted to open negotiations with Kopelman and Paige for general legal services and to determine if Zisson and Veara, Town Counsel for over 40 years, would remain involved in any pending matters.

The winter of 2015 took its toll on Ballston this year. While the DPW did an outstanding job keeping the roads safe and passable in very tough circumstances, nothing could prevent the continued overwashes of Ballston Beach dune barrier and Pamet Valley. It is clear nature has permanently altered this landscape and our access to and use of Ballston will change as the landscape does. The beach will look quite different this season, but most important, the voters have wisely approved funds for the Center for Coastal Studies to complete a design and engineering study to recommend long-term steps to stabilize and naturalize Ballston and the Pamet Valley while protecting the water supplies and property of residents in the area.

Voters also had some lengthy zoning bylaw debates at ATM. One concerned a proposed article to redefine "street" and "street adequacy." An earlier attempt to pass a related article failed in FY 2013. We appreciate the great care the PB took to revise and refine

### TNRTA ANNUAL MEETING

July 4, 2015 10AM

MEETING HOUSE

First Congregational Church

Town Hall Rd, Truro

that version. We believed the 2015 version was strong enough to ensure the immediate protection of the rights and interests of homeowners on the majority of Truro roads (now deemed non-conforming as a result of Court decisions). The consequences of this Court decision are far-reaching for individual property owners on such roads. Regrettably, the article was soundly defeated at ATM. We now expect more requests for building permits will be denied, requiring ZBA review. The PB may try again, or may await public complaints about enforcement. It may be that due process will be our best teacher concerning impact.

The issue of year round use of condos arose in February upon submission of a petitioned article to be included on the Town Warrant. Opinion is divided in the larger community, including the condo-owning community as well. With less than 8 weeks available, the Town did what it could to assist in developing a better worded article for public hearing and vote, and endorsed the re-worked article. Because the impact is significant and little factual basis existed to evaluate the article, TNRTA took no position on the substance but rather asked that non-resident condo owners in Truro - who owns more than 90% of the condos in Town - have sufficient information and time to engage in informed and fact-driven discussion(s). Further, the Planning Board did not endorse the article, in part because they also had not had the opportunity to thoroughly

review it prior to inclusion on the Town Warrant. At All Town Meeting, the Board of Health and the Water Resources Oversight Committee did not support the article because of unknowns related to ground water, wastewater, public health and environmental impact. Some community members spoke in favor and some opposed the article, which voters soundly defeated.

So, here we are at May in Truro, ready for the renewal of Spring. I remain awe-struck after a winter like this by the power and vibrancy of Truro's woods, waters, sand and sky to restore. Have a wonderful summer! **Join us at our Annual Meeting on July 4th.** Please feel free to contact us anytime at [tnrta@tnrta.org](mailto:tnrta@tnrta.org) with your views, concerns, and questions and check our website occasionally for updates at [www.tnrta.org](http://www.tnrta.org).

Best Wishes,

Regan McCarthy, President

### Truro Scholarship Winners 2015

The Citizens Scholarship, awarded by TNA/TEEA, gratefully acknowledge the ongoing contributions of TNRTA members. The three recipients this year are **Amanda Perry, Isabel Souza, and Lauren Golden.**

**Amanda** is an aspiring marine biologist who excels in classes such as oceanography, saltwater ecosystems and Honors-level Environmental Science. Beside her strong academic performance, she has been active as a volunteer in Truro since the age of 12, helping at the Library, the COA, while also volunteering with the Girls Scouts and as a sailing coach at WERC in Provincetown. Amanda will attend Cape Cod Community College in the fall.

**Isabel** is an Honor Student, member of the Student Senate, and an accomplished artist and cellist. She has is an active community volunteer, helping local organizations such as The Wellfleet Food Pantry, as a peer tutor and in raising funds for NHRS. Isabel will attend Syracuse University, majoring in Entrepreneurship while pursuing studies in Ceramics.

**Lauren** is an Honor Student as well as a student leader, attending the Rotary Youth Leadership conference on behalf of NRHS's Interact Club. She has also been a peer tutor and works with special needs students at NRHS. She also has international interests, including a project to help an orphanage in Cape Town, South Africa. She will be attending Salve Regina College, majoring in Social Work.

## Town Meeting / Town Vote

Truro's Annual Town Meeting was held on April 28, 2015. The highlights of Town Vote on the 33 articles proposed follow here:

### Amendments to the Current Year's Omnibus

**Budget:** Voters approved the following amendments to the current year's budget with no change in the total budget, allowing transfers of **\$242,785.09** to other allocable activities: Transfers from free cash include **\$107,000** to Fire and Rescue to cover staff salaries, **\$7,500** to Harbor Ops to provide a security camera at Pamet Harbor, **\$75,000** for excess snow removal costs, **\$13,500** to the Transfer Station for a container chute and recycling bin, and **\$10,000** to contract the design/engineering study of Ballston Beach area; to transfer **\$11,596** from the Public Safety/Exterior Painting Project and **\$18,196** from Capital Purchases to cover excess Tipping Fees (trash collection) at the Transfer Station.

**The Omnibus Budget for FY 2016: Voters easily passed the budget in the amount of \$17,795,825.25,**

compared to FY 2015 approved budget of **\$16,726,393.14** (or **\$17.087 MM** with overrides). Questions were raised about only three budget items: \$300,000 requested to cover the unfunded liabilities related to the OPEB fund, created last year to backstop future pension obligations; a \$35,000 increase in Town Counsel fees, explained as additional expenses anticipated for Town's labor counsel; and the reduction

in the recreation budget, explained as a reduction in "inclusion" fees for handicapped access. These items were included as proposed and the total amount requested by the BoS was approved. The voters adopted the \$5.2 MM school budget, which increased a modest \$91,194 for FY2016, but increased more than 30% over FY 2014 budget of \$4.066 MM.

**Capital Items in Omnibus Budget:** Voters approved several articles for capital expenses that were part of the omnibus budget and do not require approval at the ballot box: **Community Preservation Act** funds (**\$618,396**, see below); **Approval to borrow \$170,426 for road work**, in anticipation of receiving State Highway Aid, a customary article (as/if needed); and **transfer from the Stabilization Fund** to an **employee retirement account** first created last year to cover unused sick/vacation time of retiring employees (**\$50,000 as/if needed**).

**Re-Allocation of Free Cash in Omnibus Budget:** Voters approved moving **\$1.6 MM** of existing funds in free cash to other categories within this year's budget: **\$1.3 MM** to stabilize the tax rate; and **\$300,000** to the "OPEB [Open Post-Employment Benefits] Trust Fund."

**Community Preservation Act Funds:** As noted above, voters approved another \$618,396 for several activities: to Habitat for Humanity, \$265,000 to cover land acquisition costs; final phase of the restoration of the **First Congregational Parish Historic Meetinghouse (\$264,790)**; Recreation Dept. acquisition of up to **6 Mobi mats for handicapped access** at Corn Hill and Head of the Meadow beaches (**\$22,059**); Open Space contribution **to create walking trails** on two lots to be purchased by the Truro Conservation Trust (**\$40,000**); and **\$26,547** for **administrative costs** of the Community Preservation Committee.

**Two Override Articles (not in Omnibus Budget) on the Ballot for May 12; Both Were Voted In:** Voters considered two extra-budget expense items at ATM and at the ballot, approving both, totaling **\$203,000**. The Ballot questions were: **Q1:** Purchasing **two defibrillators** for Fire/Rescue (**\$78,000**) and **Q2:** refurbishing the Truro **Elementary School Playground (\$125,000)**.

Voters also approved specific articles of interest, including:

**Personnel Articles and Bylaw Changes:** Voters approved amendments to permit Truro to **share staff** with other municipalities; and to **limit dual positions** filled by any Town employee to not exceed 40 hours per week total on a regular basis. Voters also approved the **addition of a part-time assistant to the Health Conservation Agent**. The Town also gained approval for the non-union Classification and Compensation Plan for FY 2016.

**General and Zoning By Laws:** Voters addressed several housekeeping articles, approved one major change in the General Bylaws, and declined to approve two major zoning articles. **Voters approved** a revision to the General Bylaws to **ban smoking on Truro beaches**. The BoS proposed this change so that Truro beaches and CCNS

beaches would conform on this regulation, given that beach users cross from Town to CCNS beaches often without knowing they have done so. **Voters also approved** revisions to the Zoning Bylaws, **Section 30.2, note 4** to establish the Planning Board as the **Special Permit granting authority** and **note 6** to delete redundant language concerning accessory use. **Voters declined** to delete language in **Section 50.1.H** limiting public accommodations to two habitable stories; this 2-story limit is established in other parts of Section 50. **Voters also rejected** two articles: to adopt the proposed new definitions of **“street”** and **“street adequacy”** and an article to allow **year round condo use**.

**Charter Revisions:** Last year, voters at ATM approved several articles related to the Town Charter, and these votes were approved at the ballot box on the May 12. This year, ATM voters approved additional charter revisions, to be confirmed in next year’s ballot box. These include charter amendments to change the “Town Administrator” to **“Town Manager”** to reflect the current complexities of the position; to specify the Committees having **elected membership** (they are not defined in the charter); to grant the Town Administrator [Manager] authority to **sign contracts up to \$100,000 for budgeted (i.e., voter-approved) items**; to grant the BoS authority to **delegate some licensing authority** to the Town Licensing Agent; to transfer authority to **make staff level appointments in the Police and Fire/Rescue departments** to the Town Administrator [Manager]. Appointment of the Chiefs of these departments remains with the BoS, while voters approved that these **Chiefs will report to the Town Administrator [Manager]**; and to provide for an **annual evaluation of the Town Administrator [Manager]** by the BoS.

An article requesting the return of cemetery funds to the Congregational Church was **indefinitely postponed**.

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## Town / Regional News

### Truro Bike and Walkways Committee: Outer Cape Bike Trails

Thanks to all of you who responded to the Town’s request to participate in the Cape Cod Commission’s meetings on proposed Bike Route in Outer Cape towns and who sent comments to the CCC on the proposed plans which TNRTA passed on last month. Response and comments were most helpful. A preliminary report by the Town’s Bike and Walkways Committee will be sent to the CCC after Memorial Day. We will post the recommendations on our website and will send an email blast concerning the final proposals once they are available.


### Water Resources Oversight Committee - Phase I Recommendations/Phase II Plan

The WROC is overseeing and guiding the Town’s Integrated Water Resources Management Plan. **Phase I** evaluated water quality and identified problem areas and found that while overall nitrogen levels across Town were within acceptable limits, some parts of town had concentrations well above normal for Truro. WROC therefore advises all well-using property owners **to have septic systems pumped out at least every three years** and to **limit or stop use of nitrogen-based fertilizers**. This year, **Phase II** will identify and recommend ways to address potential threats to ground water quality. Their work in this phase will begin in Beach Point.

**Truro Beach Clean Up Day**  
**June 6, 9 a.m. to noon**  
**Corn Hill Beach**

**Please Contribute Your Experience and Skills!  
Join and Become an Active Member of TNRTA**

RENEW your membership today or become a NEW MEMBER. Send a completed membership form (enclosed below) with dues to TNRTA. Dues are \$35 per household annually. Contributions appreciated.

 <p><b>TRURO</b> NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION</p> <p>P.O. Box 324 • Truro, MA • 02666 www.tnrta.org • info@tnrta.org</p>	Name(s) <input type="text"/>				
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				Total Enclosed:\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

\*All contributions designated for the Truro Citizenship Scholarship Fund will go in full from TNRTA to TEEA



Spring/Summer 2014  
**NEWSLETTER**

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