

TNRTA NEWS

TRURO NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 324 Truro, MA 02666

www.TNRTA.org info@tnrta.org

Fall 2005 Vol. 9 No.2

TNRTA 2005-2006 Board of Directors

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As winter approaches, things in Truro are relatively quiet. However, there are three issues that have economic impact on seasonal homeowners, as well as year round residents that I want to bring to your attention.

As you are aware, the spring Town Meeting voted against additional funding for the proposed Community Center. Instead, a recommendation to review and perhaps revise the original plans was approved. Meetings have been held approximately every three weeks since the vote and are continuing. While changes to the plan are under review, it is doubtful that the Center could be built for an amount approximating the original budget. Just in the time since the plan was first approved, inflation has significantly increased the cost of both labor and material. Even a scaled-down building would probably require additional funding in the range of \$1 million.

At the spring Town Meeting, TNRTA took the position that we strongly supported the idea of a new Council on Aging facility and took no position with respect to the idea of a Community Center, since a vote of the Town had agreed a Center should be built. We did, however, state that our view was the building should remain within the recommended budget and that we opposed additional spending beyond the recommended cap. We would like to hear from you with respect to what TNRTA's position on this matter should be as it moves forward.

A second issue, which we previously advised you of, appears to be coming back to life. That is the proposal to apply a room tax to short-term rentals of homes. Previously, Senator O'Leary had introduced a bill to permit local communities to impose such a tax. TNRTA wrote to Senator O'Leary in opposition, particularly since the language of the original bill would be unconstitutional, in our view. That bill died when the legislative session ended without action on it. At that time, several Cape towns had indicated their support for the motion, although Truro's Selectmen voted they would not be in favor of it.

Town News Update

The Board of Selectmen approved the purchase and sale agreement for **The Poors Hill Property** at the meeting held on September 20, 2005. The 3.6-acre property is located south of Pamet Harbor. The town still needs to approve a Conservation Restriction for the property to finalize the purchase. A walking path is to be allowed at the base of the hill.

The construction of a **riverfront park project** with a “passive recreation” area, possible with a launching place for kayaks, has commenced in Truro Center on a town owned lot on the Pamet River.

The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Town a lengthened season to dredge the harbor channel and inner basin to **Pamet Harbor**. Until now the DEP has required that all dredging activity in the Pamet Harbor channel cease by February 15. During the past three years, this deadline had created difficulty since the weather was so cold and ice floes have made it impossible to complete the dredging. Dredging of the harbor is to begin for the 2006 year in March.

The Truro Historical Society began its lease of the former **Cobb Memorial Library** located in Truro Center. Inadequate heating and air conditioning at the Highland Museum have hampered the full use and display of the society’s historical archives. The organization is to use the Cobb Memorial Library building to create a research library where their archives, consisting of historical maps and manuscripts, can be viewed easily. The historical commission has made the building a priority for Community Preservation Acts funds and an effort is underway to have it put on the state register as a historic building.

Town Appointments

The Board of Selectmen appointed Thomas Watson to the historic commission and Sarah Morrision to the recycling committee. Betty Groom was appointed as the first member on the Tercentennial Committee that is planning the Town’s 300th anniversary in 2009. There are ten spots on the committee and any persons interested should contact Town Hall.

Vacancies on other committees include: Cable Advisory Committee, Concert Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Historical Commission. Historical Review Board, Open Space Committee, Recycling Committee, Registrar of Voters, Truro Affordability Task Force and Water Resources Oversight Committee. Applications are available at town hall and the www.truro-ma.gov or by calling 508-349-7004, extension 10.

Become Involved & Vote

TNRTA encourages its members to become involved in the Town by becoming a participant on Town Boards, Committees and Commissions. These positions are open to all town residents, voting and non-voting. TRNTA also encourages its members to register to vote in Truro in order to express their opinions on issues, which affect their community, their rights and their taxes. Many votes are decided by very slim margins, sometimes as little as one vote. For information on changing your voter registration, go to our website www.TNRTA.org and click on Town Hall to read articles on voting in Truro. Mail in registration forms are available from the Massachusetts Secretary of State, Election Division, One Ashburton Place, Rm 1705, Boston, MA or (800) 462-VOTE. They are also available at City & Town Halls in Massachusetts.

**Please read on for information on joining TNRTA or
renewing your membership**

TNRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES

TNRTA needs your continued support and membership to maintain and continue the progress and work we have achieved in our nine years of existence. We are still a young organization, but we have accomplished much in those nine short years. We now have an organized presence in the town, member representation on town committees, a voice at Town Meeting, and collaboration with year-round residents on issues, which affect all residents in the town.

TNRTA has worked on keeping you informed and representing your views and opinions on important town issues. We will

continue to do so as we monitor activities and issues in the town.

We urge you to renew your membership for 2005-2006 or become a member of TNRTA if you have not already done so. Our membership period begins on July 1, 2005 and ends on June 30, 2006. Annual dues are \$35.00 per household. It is your support and our size that give us the strength to influence events in our town.

Please renew your membership or join us today. Enclose your dues check and complete the form below with up-to-date information on your home and e-mail addresses.

Please include this completed membership form with your check. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Truro PO Box _____ Zip Code _____ Truro phone _____

Dues Enclosed: ___\$35 per household Additional contribution: \$ _____

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