

# TNRTA NEWS

## TRURO NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 324 Truro, MA 02666  
www.TNRTA.org info@tnrta.org  
Spring 2005 Vol. 9 No.1

### TNRTA 2004-2005 Board of Directors

Alan Frankel, President	
Anthony Garrett, Past President	
Frank Korahais, Secretary	
Regan McCarthy, Treasurer	
Mark Poster, Nominations	
Gwyn Korahais, Communications	
Tom Bow	Mary Frankel
Cathy Haynes	Richard Hersh
Neil Moynihan	Larry Pisapio
Ronald Probststein	David Schwartz
Richard Smith	Peter Weiler

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

It has been a busy time in Truro since our fall newsletter. Three major issues came before the Board of Selectmen and made their way to Town Meeting to be voted upon as warrants.

The first of these was a proposal to purchase land known as the Poor Property, overlooking Pamet Harbor. The family offered the property to the town for \$2 million. Funds were proposed to be used from the Land Bank, with additional funds coming from the Conservation Protection Act (CPA). However, Town needed to vote on a second article, which was whether to become part of the CPA. If approved, money in the Land Bank would automatically transfer to the CPA where allocations among historic preservation, open space and affordable housing are required. At issue is whether there would be enough funds going forward to amortize this proposed debt and remain within the guidelines for allocation provided in the CPA. You will find a column explaining the

CPA and the outcome of the warrant article in this newsletter.

The third warrant article was for an override to permit borrowings in excess of the suggested cap for the construction of the combined Community Center and Council on Aging facility. The voters originally voted to allocate \$3.9 million for this project. When initial bidding did not permit for the construction within the confines of the recommended cap, an article to override the cap was offered at a previous Town Meeting. This failed by two votes of the two-thirds majority required. After sending the project out for new bids, it became apparent that an even larger override was required. The override request was for an additional appropriation of \$825,000. An ad-hoc advisory committee was formed to review the project and to advise the Selectmen what the alternatives were. These came down to either approving the override or scaling down the project through a new design process. The Board of Directors voted on your behalf to recommend a new design as being the lesser of two not particularly attractive alternatives. The motion for the override was soundly defeated at Town Meeting.

We are pleased that our Treasurer, Regan McCarthy, was asked to act as an advisor to the ad-hoc committee. Our organization continues to gain opportunities for seasonal residents to participate on Town committees and I hope some among you will step forward to participate. Please let us know by e-mail if you would like to be considered and what your specific areas of interest are.

As I wrote to you in my previous message, TNRTA continues to look for new leadership. Many members of the Board have served for two terms and some of our officers have continued to serve beyond their initial terms. For our organization to continue to grow and be effective, it is vital that new people with fresh ideas join the leadership group. Please contact us by e-mail if you would like to become more active in TNRTA.

Our organization has come a long way since its founding almost nine years ago. I can report to you that we are accepted and listened to by Town leaders and, I believe, by year-round town citizens as well. We have gained the right to speak at Town meeting which I did in reference to the Community Center issue. Seasonal resident taxpayers are being asked to serve on Town committees. We appreciate that your support has brought us to this point and we ask for your continued membership in order to speak for our mutual interests in the future. Please join us at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 2, 2005.

Regards,

Alan N. Frankel

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### **Town News Update**

The proposed **Community Center project**, to be located at Standish Way and Route 6 near the library, hit another road block as the construction bids received in early April came in over the construction cost cap. An override proposal requesting an additional \$825,000 for the project was placed on the warrant for the April 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting where it would have required a 2/3 majority to pass. The article was voted after a motion for a secret ballot passed, and was defeated by a vote of 128 to 103. The town will do further study on the project and consider alternatives to the current plan.

A vote was also taken at Town Meeting on the purchase of the **Poor Property**, a piece of land (3.6 acres) south of Pamet Harbor. The property is for sale. The owners began their process by offering it to the town as an open space purchase for the price of two million dollars, a price much lower than what it would get on the open market. This proposal was passed, meeting the 2/3 major-

ity vote required. The Truro Conservation Trust has agreed to share the cost by borrowing \$500,000 to be given to the town, earmarked specifically for purchase of the Poor Property.

In connection with land purchases, another warrant article, that concerning whether the town should join the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** was voted on and passed. The CPA replaces the current Cape Cod Open Space Acquisition Plan, or Land Bank and allows for significant state matching funds. Under the act, resources will be allocated toward historic preservation and affordable housing as well as open space. A community preservation committee will oversee activities associated with the new law. Numerous towns across the Cape have enacted the CPA.

The hiring of a second full-time staff member at the **Truro Library** also passed at Town Meeting. As library patronage has grown, circulation has increased 50 per cent. The workload currently handled by community volunteers has become more demanding and requires the skill of an additional full-time librarian.

An agreement to purchase the **North of Highland Camping Area** near Head of the Meadow Beach has been signed by the Trust for Public Lands, a non-profit organization committed to the protection of open space. The trust has a two-year option on the property, intended to allow time for securing funds for the purchase from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Board of Selectmen has endorsed a scope of work for the **North Truro Revitalization Project**. The Town would apply first for a State grant to cover costs of a qualified planner to carry out the scope of work that would include developing plans for a mix of retail, commercial and residential space in the village center.

### **Town News Update (cont'd.)**

In addition to the Revitalization Project, Truro is moving forward with development of a new **North Truro Post Office**. The US Postal Service has selected a location for the new facility in the village area, the corner property across from Dutra's Market at the intersection of Route 6A and Highland Road.

Town government has a few new faces including **Town Administrator**, Pam Nolan. Nolan previously served as Town Manager in Plymouth, MA, and in Westerly, RI, and as executive Administrator in Weymouth, MA, prior to coming to Truro. The town also now has a full-time **Health and Conservation Agent**, Pat Pajaron. Pajaron worked as the health inspector in Provincetown since 2001. At this time, the post for Recreation Director is not yet filled.

Last October, the Selectmen of Truro and Provincetown created the new Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) to redefine how the two towns will manage their **drinking water resources**. The new IMA enables both Towns to work closely together through the Pamet Lens Oversight Group (PLOG) to identify and develop new drinking water resources. One of the first major tasks for PLOG has been to permit new water wells off of North Union Field Road in Truro. Drilling for these wells began in April. The wellfield is expected to be fully permitted and operational in five to six years.

### **E-MAIL ALERTS**

TNRTA alerts its members to important issues in Truro through **e-mail**. Keep your e-mail address current. Notify us of any changes on our website:

[www.tnrta.org](http://www.tnrta.org) / [info@tnrta.org](mailto:info@tnrta.org).

**SAVE THE DATE !**  
**TNRTA**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**JULY 2, 2005**  
**10:00 AM**  
**TRURO CENTRAL SCHOOL**

### **TNRTA Supports Truro Students**

Fifth and sixth graders in the Truro Central School had a novel learning experience this fall and winter: they wrote a symphony! Guided by George Scharr, Education Director of the Symphony and Mary Abt, Truro's Music Teacher, the children wrote a story, *The Terrific Toy*, and devised musical themes to portray it. Scharr orchestrated these themes into a 10-minute production which was performed by the entire 85-piece professional Cape Symphony under the baton of Royston Nast on April 26, and May 7 and 8.

The experience was provided by the Cape Cod Symphony at no cost to the students or to the schools. Contributions were requested from outside donors to help offset the expenses involved in producing the program. After being contacted by Symphony Board member, Ken Brock, TNRTA participated by making a contribution in the amount of \$200.

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**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.

A self-addressed envelope has been enclosed for your convenience. ***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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Truro Non-Resident Taxpayers Association    PO Box 324    Truro MA 02666**

***www.tnrta.org / [info@tnrta.org](mailto:info@tnrta.org)***