



TRURO  
NON-RESIDENT  
TAXPAYERS'  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 324 • Truro • MA, 02666  
www.tnrta.org • info@tnrta.org

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Usually by this time, we are writing about the arrival of winter, but like many places in New England, the Cape has had a protracted and warm Fall. Hurricane Irene cause substantial leaf-loss, so we had little of the blazing glory we have grown to love in Truro's Fall, though moderate temperatures left our gardens growing later into this season than usual. Only one frost so far, as I write.

Truro suffered a different chill in the air in mid-October concerning the arrest of Truro's newly appointed Police Chief. The circumstances surrounding the arrest of Mr. Lundborn have been thoroughly played out in the press, and don't need further presentation here. On November 15, the Truro BoS voted 4-0 to accept John Lundborn's resignation from the position of Police Chief, effective immediately, and to appoint Acting Chief Kyle Takakjian as Police Chief, pending successful conclusion of contract negotiations. We anticipate these will proceed apace and that Acting Chief Takakjian will assume the full post immediately. We are fortunate to have a qualified candidate for the position, already fully vetted, in whom the Truro PD and the community have great trust and for whom they have great respect. We are pleased that the matter has been resolved and hope our input was constructive in helping this to come about. We give our good will and best wishes to the Truro PD and to its new Chief for a successful transition and future.

At the same time, we have had additional changes in Truro's

leadership: Our new Town Administrator, Rex Peterson, has joined us and has landed soundly and gracefully on his feet during a challenging time for Truro. Rex served as Assistant Town Administrator in Wellfleet and brings considerable experience and a fresh perspective to Town Hall. Truro will lose one of our most precious resources - Meg Royka, Library Director - who will retire in April. The Truro Library has been an outstanding community institution during her tenure. We thank her for her extraordinary service to the Town, delivered with great consideration and skill for the benefit and pleasure of year-round and seasonal residents of all ages.

Truro, designated last Spring by the Commonwealth as a "Green Community", has completed all tasks necessary to participate in the program and has received a grant of \$142,000 to advance the proposed green-energy work. The Truro Fire Department received a highly critical independent report which the Town will address over the winter, with recommendations to be made by or at All Town Meeting in April. Unusual for Truro, Town voters faced 11 articles to consider at a Special All Town Meeting (ATM) on November 14th. Importantly, an article was proposed to take another crack at regulating house size. As we had reported previously, the overwhelming sentiment of Town residents - voters and non-voters alike - is that reasonable house size regulation is needed and in our interests. This version, proposed by

the Planning Board, did not address the reservations that residents have raised in the past, though the Planning Board deserves our appreciation for trying to fashion an article acceptable to diverse interests. Yet, the ambiguities in the draft led even some staunch supporters of house size regulation to vote against the article. Voters split evenly 74-75.

The Cape Cod Commission is conducting a survey concerning the nature and course of the Bike/Pedestrian Path planned through the Seashore. PLEASE complete their survey, either on paper or online. More detailed information on this and other items of interest follow inside.

Please feel free to contact us anytime at [tnrta@tnrta.org](mailto:tnrta@tnrta.org) with your views, concerns, and questions and to check our website occasionally for updates at [www.tnrta.org](http://www.tnrta.org).

Best Wishes,  
Regan McCarthy  
TNRTA President

### **Travel Advisory: BOURNE BRIDGE**

For those who may be traveling to and from the Cape over the upcoming holidays, note that repairs on the BOURNE BRIDGE have resumed and will continue until done. The bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction, so plan travel times to accommodate delays.

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# Special Town Meeting / Town Vote

Truro's Special Town Meeting, held on November 14th, presented 11 articles for vote. The highlights of Town Vote follow.

Voters rejected or indefinitely postponed the following articles:

- **Article 1- House Size Regulation** - This article proposed to regulate house size based upon square footage of all "roofed" structures on a property. The Planning Board's well-intended aim was to establish a house size max while protecting smaller properties from overly restrictive limits. The general principles proposed were that "Building coverage shall be no more than 3.5% of the Lot Area...plus 1,200 square feet. The Planning Board may grant a Special Permit to allow greater building coverage not exceeding 4.5% of the Lot Area plus 1,200 square feet. In neither case shall the building coverage exceed 4,800 square feet." Discussion was lengthy, but reservations, misunderstanding and confusion about the impact of these regulations abounded. In addition to holes in the article (specifically with regard to exceptions and to unroofed structures) two factors worked against the successful passage of this article: first, this was proposed at an off-cycle Special Town Meeting with lower attendance (but committed opposition) and no prior discussion was held within the community to prepare voters to deal accurately with its impact. Despite this, half of the voters still expressed support for some form of house size regulation, though zoning regulations require a 2/3 majority. So, though some may characterize this as a referendum on house size regulation, it seems to be confirmation that Truro voters do not put an insufficient article in place just to "do something" about an issue.
- **Article 2: Utility Easement - Campgrounds** - In April, the voters soundly rejected an article on both technical and substantive grounds which sought to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, and if deemed appropriate, enter into an agreement to grant an easement between the North Truro Camping Area and Horton's Camping for

approximately 3,500 feet along Highland Road and South Highland Road. This article was indefinitely postponed since Truro does not own this roadway and it belongs to the Barnstable County.

Voters approved the following articles:

- **Voters passed seven budget-related articles at this meeting.** None changed the approved total budget. These included allocation of \$4850 to the FY 2012 **Veterans Benefits Fund**, to provide assistance to a local veteran and to cover costs of veterans-related commemorations; to transfer \$20,000 to the unallocated **Energy Reserve Fund** to cover higher-than-expected gas and oil costs; to create a **"Tuition Revolving Fund"** that will permit a neighboring town to pay full tuition costs for a student attending the Truro Elementary School; to cover costs associated with completion and certification of the **"capping" of Town Dump**, per the DEP's requirements; to allocate \$7500 to hire an **engineering consultant** to assist the Town in identifying ways to advise and help the Town resolve/ challenge conflicting requirements concerning the permissible harbor dredging period; to transfer \$1,000 from available funds to meet the **costs of the Town audit**.
- **Amendment to Conservation Restriction on Great Hollow Rd** - The BoS, the Conservation Commission and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs pre-approved this amendment, subject to voters' approval, to alter a boundary line to permit an additional 247 sq ft of Lot 2, 40 Great Hollow Rd, to be included in the conservation restriction.
- **Amendment of Article 23 of April 2011 ATM - Stretch Code** - to correct an omission that should have specified that the period of "concurrency" - in which existing code and the new stretch code both apply - goes to 6/30/12.

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## Town News

### Truro Appoints New Police Chief

On November 15th, the BoS appointed Acting Chief Kyle Takakjian to become the next Police Chief of Truro. Chief Takakjian was one of three finalists recommended to the BoS by the Police Chief Search Committee, which conducted an extensive and open search over a 9-month period that whittled the finalists' pool from 62 applicants. Chief Takakjian brings to this position both an impeccable record of service in Truro, with consistent and increasing levels of responsibility which he has successfully executed, and a strong record of outstanding service and leadership in the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve. He assumes leadership of a Department that is saddened by recent events, but confident that it has a bright future.

### Truro Hires New Town Administrator

In March, the BoS established the Town Administrator Search Committee to identify a short list of viable finalists to be our next TA. After a full and rigorous search, the Committee

recommended 3 candidates, including the successful nominee, Rex Peterson. Rex had most recently served Wellfleet for many years as Assistant Town Administrator. He came to the TA position in October with an ambitious "to do" list of promising and thoughtful agenda for his fresh start in our town. Instead, he found himself in what BoS Chairman Curtis Hartman called "the best of times and the worst of times." Nonetheless, Rex has managed to move ahead quickly, especially in meeting with and organizing departments to meet Town goals, in exploring opportunities and priorities for operational improvements and efficiencies, and among other things, Rex has introduced staff re-assignments for the Transfer Station.

### Truro Seeks New Library Director

As mentioned, Meg Royka, current Library Director, has notified the Town of her retirement come April 2012. She leaves the Library in outstanding shape, having expanded and updated services as well as completed the current five year plan. Susan Kadar, head of the Library Committee, is leading the effort to replace the irreplaceable Meg, and has established a solid committee to conduct the search.

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## Consultant's Report: Truro Fire Dept. Needs Overhaul

Truro retained retired Brewster Fire Chief Roy Jones to conduct a study of the operations and organization of the Truro Fire Dept. His report, issued in early November, was highly critical of the Department's organization, training, operations, and standards. Chief among the concern was the reliance on a "board of fire engineers", a system of leadership used by only two towns on the Cape, Truro and Provincetown (most have an appointed Fire Chief). Jones concluded that this left the Dept. unorganized and essentially run by members with disparate agendas. Jones was also concerned about the lack of training and standards which could pose liability risks to the Town and safety risks to firefighters and property owners. While expressing confidence in Fire Chief Brian Davis and other members of the Department, he reported that the Department is also challenged by a diminishing pool of volunteers and an increasing need for EMS (Rescue) services rather than firefighting services, whose training and scheduling needs differ. Members of the Dept. have long stated that the Department is short-handed, and many of these concerns stem from that. Jones made numerous suggestions, including elimination of the Board of Fire Engineers within three years; adoption of the State Law giving an appointed Fire Chief authority over the department; establishment of a reporting structure placing the Fire Chief

under the BoS or the Town Administrator. Other options under consideration include a mixed pool of paid and volunteer firefighters, shared (possibly paid) staff for EMS, and a shift to staffing based on the proportional use of ambulance vs. firefighting personnel. The BoS may engage Mr. Jones to advise upon and assist in implementation of his recommendations, and will consider proposing articles, as and if needed, at the upcoming All Town Meeting.

## UPDATE on Ballston Beach Dune Restoration

In March, TNRTA was asked to provide financial and volunteer assistance to an emergency project designed to rebuild the critical dunes at Ballston Beach which protect the head of the Pamet River from salt-water "overwashes." Ongoing erosion caused by heavy foot traffic and pounding winter wave action caused near-irreversible damage. TNRTA proudly joined the community partnership to restore this dune area, led by Safe Harbor Environmental of Wellfleet, in partnership with the Town of Truro Conservation Commission; Town of Truro Beach Commission; Town of Truro Department of Public Works; Cape Cod National Seashore and The Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Gordon Peabody, head of Safe Harbor, recently reported that the dune build-up has exceeded 10 feet in height already! So, jump for joy - just not on the dunes - that this experiment so far seems to have been a great success.

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## Cape Cod Commission Seeks Input on Bike/Pedestrian Paths In CCNS Areas of Truro

The Cape Cod Commission is studying various options for continuing the development of the Cape Bike Trail between Eastham, where it now ends, and Provincetown. Many of these options include paths now in heavily wooded and undeveloped areas of Truro, including little-used fire roads and ancient ways. CCC has provided us with a survey which it hopes all taxpayers will complete as soon as possible. There are two options to complete this survey:

**On Paper:** Complete the survey included in this newsletter and return it by **December 9, 2011** directly to:

Clay Schofield, c/o Cape Cod Commission P.O. Box 226, Barnstable, MA 02630

**Online:** The CCC has prepared an electronic form of this survey which is identical to the one printed here, but which allows direct, confidential answers which are immediately tabulated for the CCC. Very easy. To access this online survey, either type this link into your web browser or go to the TNRTA website ([www.tnrtat.org](http://www.tnrtat.org)) where a click-through link is available at the top of our website. Please complete by **December 9, 2011**. Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OuterCapeBike-PedMasterPlan>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey on this important matter!

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## Coastal Erosion Forum

TNRTA hosted a Coastal Erosion Forum on Tuesday evening, August 16, 2011. Approximately 80 townspeople and seasonal residents attended the forum whose purpose was to provide information that would help the residents of Truro understand the causes and nature of erosion Truro's shorelines, the feasibility of various solutions used to lessen its effects, and the local bylaws and regulations governing these measures. Presenters included **Graham Giese**, a coastal geologist who works at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies; **Stacy Rogers**, a coastal geologist and GIS (geographical information system) professional and consultant; **Steve McKenna**, the Cape and Islands Regional Coordinator of Coastal Zone Management for Massachusetts; and **Deborah L. McCutcheon**, Chair of the Truro Conservation Commission. Among the many surprising facts brought out by the panelists and in discussion included:

- Efforts to reduce or eliminate erosion are not the best solution given local conditions, and efforts should be directed to increasing sand deposits ("deposition").
  - Sand fencing such as the kind used extensively on Truro's bayside has not been shown to be effective in deterring erosion, and may increase it.
  - Sand fencing of the kind used by the CCNS (loose, held together by wire) can be effective in increasing deposition, especially on ocean side coasts, where wind, rather than water, action is at play in rebuilding dunes. (This is one of the reasons the Ballston Beach dune restoration efforts are successful).
  - Erosion on the Outer Cape is cyclical and inevitable.
  - The only permanently effective solution to property loss from erosion is to move the structures off the affected dune(s).
  - Any other effort to mitigate erosion has domino effects on abutting coastal areas that cannot be avoided and may not be remediable.
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**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.

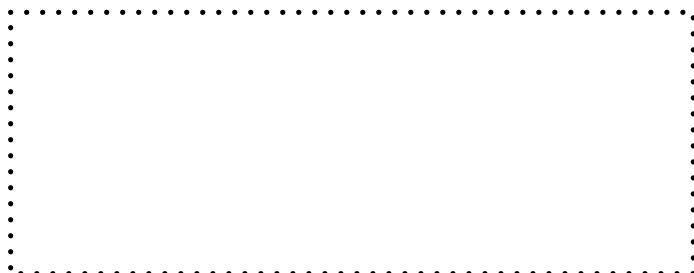


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Truro PO Box			Dues	TNRTA Dues Enclosed:	\$35
Truro Zip Code			*Contributions	To TNRTA: \$	
Truro phone				To TEEA Scholarship Fund: \$	
			Total Enclosed:\$		

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



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