



TRURO  
NON-RESIDENT  
TAXPAYERS'  
ASSOCIATION

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

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

As I write, Truro is in the throes of its second blizzard this season! Snow accumulation has been around a foot more or less each time and this year we are facing prolonged bitter cold snap - great for fruit and flowering trees, but tough on people and pipes! While the winds and tides have been impressive in both storms, so far the beaches are holding up, thanks to the great work of the town last year and this year in getting ready and staying on top of maintenance. Let's hope the rest of the season is kind to our town.

Usually, TNRTA sends out a Fall Newsletter but this year we held back because of a Special All Town Meeting, originally scheduled for November 12, 2013. Failing to reach a quorum, that meeting could not proceed, and was moved to and held on January 15, 2014, when a robust turnout of around 175 voters filled the room. Because it covered some important issues, we wanted to give a report on the outcome and impact of this meeting, found inside.

In the meanwhile, some big changes have happened at Town Hall: Tom Wingard, Building Commissioner, took up the same position in Eastham in later October after serving here nearly a decade. The Town has appointed Elbert Ulshoeffer, retired

from Dennis, as the interim building inspector. Mr. Ulshoeffer has extensive experience serving as interim building inspector for most Lower and Outer Cape towns at one time or another. Subsequently, in considering filling the position permanently, Rex Petersen, Town Administrator, recommended reducing this to a part-time position based on fiscal restraint and a dramatic reduction in new building permits. TNRTA, along with other voices, recognized that while new building permits have sharply declined over the past decade, alterations/remodeling are on the rise and are expected to continue rising. As this both benefits local tradespeople and is a core element of Truro's economy, it is important to have efficient and thorough review of filings and timely on site inspections. Enforcement requests are and will also increase as well, and deserve additional attention. We recommended keeping the position full time, a position the BOS took subsequently in a 3-2 majority vote.

Just before Christmas, Rex Petersen announced he would retire from his position as Town Administrator at the

end of June. Rex has served Truro for three years, and with his work in Wellfleet and other communities, wraps up a long and distinguished career in public service when he leaves us. He plans on being a busy man in the next six months, anticipating he will complete a review of the fire department staffing, structure and future options, the launch of a new Town website, a personnel classification and compensation study, and the selection and hiring of a new building commissioner, among other tasks. We are grateful for all Rex has done for Truro, and wish him well in his next adventures.

There is more news inside, and as usual will be back with our regular Spring/Summer newsletter in May, after All Town Meeting on April 29. 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, President

***One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.***

*-William Shakespeare*

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# Special Town Meeting / Town Vote

Truro's Special All Town meeting, originally scheduled for November 12, 2013, did not proceed because a quorum of 100 voters was not present. The meeting was re-scheduled and held, with a quorum of approximately 175 voters, on January 15, 2014. Voters addressed nine articles in lightning speed - in 22 minutes of deliberations! Fastest in Truro history, we would venture. It should take less time to read this.

**Police Cruiser Replacement - Voters approved accepting \$32,138 from insurance proceeds and supplementing these with \$3,862 to purchase a replacement.** A Truro police cruiser was totaled in an on-the-job accident in August 2013. (Fortunately, no one was hurt in the accident!) Voters are required to authorize acceptance of insurance proceeds over \$20,000 and also had to approve the difference between insurance receipts and the purchase cost of a replacement 2013 Dodge police cruiser.

**Purchase of New Unmarked Police Cruiser - Voters approved transferring \$28,000 from approved funds for this purpose.** The TPD's present unmarked vehicle had 120,000 miles on it and needed extensive repairs. This is used for investigations, court appearances, and other situations where a marked car is inappropriate.

**Purchase of New Marked 4-Wheel Drive Police Vehicle - Voters approved transferring \$30,000 from approved funds for this purpose.** The TPD's current 4x4 needs extensive repairs and is not reliable in all seasons. Voters approved acquiring a marked 4x4 pickup truck, to be shared by the Police Department and the Beach Department.

For the two vehicle purchases, price is also offset by trade-ins with two additional, old PD vehicles traded in as well. This continues the fleet reduction plan that began two years ago, and will result in more extensive use of each vehicle, but fewer TPD vehicles overall.

**Transfer Funds to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund - Voters approve transfer of \$27,315** to the Trust Fund to replace funds expended on weather-sensitive repairs and maintenance of the affordable rental property at 14 Firehouse Road. This followed from a BoS Decision in September to authorize these emergency repairs.

**Re-Appropriate Funds for Overhead Doors at the Safety Facility - Voters approved re-**

**allocation of \$15,000** in funds encumbered in FY 2009 but unexpended for a range hood and fire suppression system at the same facility, in order to use these monies for two overhead doors.

**Transfer Funds to Regional Emergency Shelter - Voters approved transfer of \$10,000** to cover Truro's share of the costs of stocking the Emergency Shelter to be shared with Provincetown at the Veterans' Elementary School. Provincetown will contribute the same amount for this purpose.

**Accept Return of Two Cemetery Plots - Voters approved to accept the return of two unused cemetery plots** from owners who no longer reside in the area and reimburse them \$1200, the original purchase price.

**Transfer Affordable Housing Trust Funds to the Truro Housing Authority to Assist with Land Purchase - Voters approved transfer of up to \$45,000** to help purchase a lot for affordable housing, subject to permanent affordable housing deed restrictions. Last year, voters approved \$180,000 in Community Preservation monies for this purpose, and Habitat for Humanity was selected to build. But lot prices have risen, and additional funds are needed to acquire the lot.

**Transfer a Sum of Money to Implement Modifications To the Staffing of the Fire & Rescue Department - Voters approved a Selectmen's motion to indefinitely postpone this matter.** As part of the ongoing assessment of the Fire and Rescue Dept., the Town's consultant advised the BoS that in their opinion the majority of the on-call volunteer firefighters in Truro lack necessary training and certification to safely and properly perform. This article was a placeholder should the BoS be required to instruct the interim Fire Chief to hire part-time firefighters with proper training and certification meeting standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

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# Town / Regional News

## Truro Church, Two Cemeteries Nominated to National Register of Historic Places

Three properties in Truro have had their nominations approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. The First Congregational Parish Historical District has been designated, to include the church, built in 1827 and the Congregational Cemetery in front of it, and Snow's Cemetery to its southern side. The church is the oldest in Town, and its meetinghouse was recently restored with Community Preservation Funds approved by voters. The Congregational Cemetery contains grave markers for some of Truro's oldest, especially maritime, families. Snow's Cemetery is the only Truro Cemetery not first associated with a church, and became a public cemetery in the 1930s. It is the burial site for many prominent 19th century Truro families as well as

famous members of the pre- and post-WWII artists' communities such as Charles Hawthorne, founder of the Provincetown Art Colony and the Cape Cod School of Art, Katherine Dos Passos and Hans Hoffmann, to name a few. Truro residents should take great pride in these historic sites, both as legacies of a living story of the Town and as wise investments made by the community to preserve its own small but magnificent architectural history.

## FEMA Flood Maps

Responding to concerns raised by TNRTA and others, in December, the MA State congressional delegation asked FEMA for a delay in implementing the new Flood Zone Maps in Massachusetts after a scientific review challenged the use of overly simplistic technologies and flawed data - largely based on Pacific Coast conditions - to establish new zone parameters in Massachusetts. It suggested the more sophisticated methods applied to the mid-Atlantic region were more suitable for Mass. Their letter also alleged that FEMA failed to do "higher level analysis" and in some instances relied on erroneous and out of date local information as well. Rep. William Keating led the way, expressing concerns of his constituents that the draconian increases in insurance rates for affected properties could force some owners out of their homes. The delegation asked for a detailed response by February 1. While the new maps affect only limited portions of Truro, other areas of the Outer Cape are affected more extensively.

## Trash Wars

Competition for Cape trash is heating up. Most Cape Towns have relied on SEMASS, whose contracts expire at the end of 2014. The current contract calls for a rate per ton of just under \$40, but beginning over a year ago the bidding started, albeit at a much higher rate approaching \$70 per ton. This led towns like Wellfleet to propose a pay-as-you-go scheme, which residents have soundly criticized. At the same time, SEMASS, now operating as Covanta, has serious competition from Zero Waste Solutions, which has offered bids to Cape towns as low as \$55/ton. Haulage is separately bid and also competitive now. Truro has not as of this date signed a new deal. Whatever comes of this, we should expect at some point to see impact at the dump, though less severe than projected last year.

## Town Elections

Voters will have to fill some important offices this year:

- **Selectman:** one position/3-year
- **Town Moderator:** one position/3-year
- **Planning Board:** two positions /one 5-year, one 1-year respectively; the 1-year position is currently vacant)
- **School Committee:** two positions /one 3-year, one 2-year respectively; the 2-year position is currently vacant)
- **Library Trustee:** two positions/3-year
- **Cemetery Commission:** one position/3-year

If you wish to nominate someone or are a registered voter in Truro and wish to run for one of these offices, obtain **Nomination Papers** from the Town Clerk's office which must be:

- **Filed by Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 5pm; and**
- **Signed by at least 20 (twenty) registered voters.**

## NSTAR and Herbicide Spraying Information

Many folks are interested in the impact of NSTAR's herbicide spraying initiatives. More information and answers to common questions can be found on the website of the local coalition to "Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer" at <http://poccapcod.org/nstar> or contact Laura Kelley [poccapcod@gmail.com](mailto:poccapcod@gmail.com).

**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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Name(s)					
Permanent Address					
City		State		Zip Code	
E-mail			Phone		
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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