



**TRURO**  
NON-RESIDENT  
TAXPAYERS'  
ASSOCIATION

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**Minutes of Twenty First Annual Members' Meeting  
Truro Public Library  
Saturday, July 2, 2016**

**With a quorum of more than 80 Members, as well as Truro BOS Chair Paul Wisotzky, Selectman Jay Coburn and Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer on hand, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM**

**Regan McCarthy, TNRTA President**, opened the meeting and introduced existing board members. She also introduced guest speaker, Lisa Tobia, Chair of the Truro Planning Board, and PB member Peter Herridge.

**Minutes of the previous membership meeting were approved.**

**The current TNRTA Board officers will continue in their positions in 2016-2017.**

**Regan McCarthy** spoke of TNRTA's continued role as a positive force in Truro, making a difference in local cultural, community and economic activities. For example, TNRTA Board members play active roles on the *Economic Development* and the *Bicycle and Walkways* Committees. The Organization continues to have a strong membership base and is in sound financial condition. It strives to keep its membership informed on town issues and is at this time the second organization in terms of longevity for the region.

As in prior years TNRTA made donations to numerous civic, health and cultural organizations on which non-residents and the entire community rely for assistance and enrichment. TNRTA has also provided assistance to the Town and provided the part-timers perspective on numerous issues that may arise.

McCarthy introduced the agenda and speakers.

**The Cape Cod Commission's goal is to extend the "Cape Cod Rail Trail" through Wellfleet and Truro to Provincetown.** They have asked Truro via the The Bicycle and Walkways Committee (BWWC) to recommend possible pathways through Town.

**Cathy Haynes, TNRTA Board member and Chair of the BWWC**, reported on that group's progress to date. The BWWC is proposing a combination of back roads and a multi-use portion of Route 6 as the favored alternative. They have developed and promoted plans with the Town and State DOT to improve safety for walkers and cyclists in Town, and have asked for additional safety measures on Route 6.

Short-term plans call for a **bike and pedestrian path** with signage using the breakdown lanes on both sides of Route 6 covering the stretch from the Wellfleet Fire Station to Highland and North Truro Center. This is being reviewed for finalization with the State DOT and BOS.

Plans beyond that which might include a grass median separating auto and bicycle or walking lanes are probably 5 or more years out.

In introducing guest speaker **Lisa Tobia**, Regan McCarthy stressed the importance of the Planning Board's role as the town deals with challenges of changing demographics, housing needs and a need for clear definition of things such as "commercial and residential", and definitions of safe, accessible streets and roads.

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Lisa Tobia listed responsibilities of the Planning Board. These include a Town Comprehensive Plan, site plan reviews for buildings, sub division reviews, maintenance of official Town maps, and exploring housing options for the future. Current goals include development of a long range vision and plan, promotion of use of accessory dwelling units as an option to help satisfy housing needs, as well as Seashore district and Town zoning, development. She added to these the need for clear "set back" rules, "street" definition, and rules for cottage and condo year round use –particularly as the PB is working on simple rules for legal use of accessory and secondary buildings on properties as housing alternatives.

In answer to questions Tobia said, while no specific completion dates exist, she looked forward to an inclusive process by which the needs of all could be addressed in development of the **Long Range Plan**. The Plan would aim to accommodate and balance changing needs of citizens, with the need to maintain the rural quality and character of the Town. Using street definition as an example she mentioned the PB is enlisting help of the Police and Fire Departments to assess safety of older roads while being conscious of the character those roads represent to the Town. In Truro, where home and neighborhood associations are responsible for upkeep of some roads, the state requires that funds be allocated to the maintenance of roads as passable. She added many of these private roads are in various stages of disrepair.

Peter Herridge described the work being done to develop some reasonable, enforceable rules that would cap **size of homes in the Seashore**, The Federal government has asked the towns to manage this process entirely. Once developed these rules would be vetted and presented for a vote at Annual Town Meeting where a 2/3 majority vote will be needed for passage.

### **Other Business**

In order to better reflect the organization's evolved role in a community where many of its entire set of residents may be considered Part-Timers, TNRTA asked those attending to consider an **Association name change to the more suitable Truro Part-Time Resident Taxpayers' Association (TPRTA)**. It was agreed to by acclamation. Action will be taken to examine the implications and if appropriate, effect the change of name. In addition, to simplify financial management and membership processing, the fiscal year will be changed to conform to the calendar year.

McCarthy reported she meets periodically with other leaders of similar organizations on the Outer Cape. Collectively they are concerned that the Towns will deal with financial concerns by instituting **different tax classifications for part-time and full time residents**. In some cases Residential Tax Exemptions are used to lighten tax burdens for selective residents. This could mean that budgetary short falls would lead to higher taxes for part-time residents. As a result some in the group are advocating that its members register to vote in Cape towns and even exploring avenues wherein part-timers could get a vote on budget issues.

Truro too, may consider such tax differentiation. It is important that all the implications of such a move are analyzed and understood before such steps are taken. It is hope the view-points of all will be considered. The more inclusive such a process is, the better.

Q&A centered on the tax issues, with some members saying they already bear most of the Town's financial burden; condo year round use; water adequacy and usage, particularly as Beach Point usage grows; affordable housing for citizens of Truro; the Pamet storm related overwash; East Harbor water problems between the "lake" and Bay and other items of concern.

Members were told of a **"special" meeting at which the Town will be hosting all residents**. All that can should attend and participate with the BOS, and some heads of Town Committees. Town leaders hope to inform, and gain input and feedback from all. Everyone is encouraged to attend on **July 18, from 5 to 7PM**. It would be a good opportunity to raise many of the questions raised today.

Business was concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

Submitted by: Frank Korahais  
TNRTA Board Secretary