



T R U R O
PART-TIME
RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors:

Cathy Haynes, President
Regan McCarthy, Past President
Anthony Garrett, Vice President
Frank Korahais, Secretary
Gail Pisapio, Treasurer / Clerk

Tom Bow
David Daglio
Ron Fichtner
Mark Hammer
Caroline Smith

Peter Sullivan
Peter Weiler
Steve Wynne
Andrew Smith
(Emeritus)

P.O. Box 324 · Truro, MA, 02666
tprta@tprta.org · www.tprta.org

Minutes of Twenty-Fourth Annual Members' Meeting

Truro MA | Saturday, July 11, 2020 | via ZOOM

ADOPTED

A quorum being confirmed, and with more than 80 Members in attendance via Zoom, the meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

Cathy Haynes, President, opened the meeting and described the procedure to be followed in this first-ever virtual meeting. Member questions would be submitted and curated for presentation and response.

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved by the Board since there was no practical way to circulate them to the membership in a virtual meeting as is customarily done in a physical meeting..

In her report, Haynes thanked and introduced the TPRTA Board, now including new members, David Daglio and Steve Wynne. In addition, she thanked former Treasurer Peter Weiler for his many years of service in that role, now assumed by Gail Pisapio.

TPRTA's finances remain sound with revenue covering all annual operational expenses. Membership is robust and engagement is strong, with an e-newsletter readership exceeding 1600 readers and growing.

Truro Select Board Chair **Jan Worthington, guest speaker**, was introduced.

Members voted unanimously to conduct further meeting business after Ms. Worthington had completed her remarks and responses to questions.

Select Board Chair Worthington cited her background with many years in Town service including 13 years on The Select Board and 2 years as its Chair. She gave a brief review of the past year characterized by the progress before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic: the Town closed on the 70 acre Walsh property; suffered the tragic and untimely death of Select Board member Maureen Burgess and had a special election resulting in new Board member Stefanie Rein; had to begin the task of hiring a new Town Manager when Rae Ann Palmer announced she would be retiring within months; made progress in identifying the "Cloverleaf" as a prospective site for affordable housing and continued its efforts to staff up the ranks of the Police and Fire Departments; and of course, running day to day operations. However, COVID severely impacted most of the efforts such as Walsh property planning, the Cloverleaf project, identifying candidates for Town Manger and staffing in general. She reported there had been 10 COVID cases in Truro. Town Hall was closed and staff began to work on line. She commended everyone, including Town Manager Palmer who agreed to stay on an interim basis... but added anxiety levels remain high.

Q&A: with **Jan Worthington's** answers to major categories of questions:

New Tax Rate - Probably won't be set until October

Resumption of Town Committee activity - No information yet

Enforcement of Mask Wearing - Like most locales there is almost no way to enforce it.

New Town Planner - Proving to be difficult role to fill. Dearth of interested, qualified candidates.

Walsh Property - Town now owns the property but very little progress because of COVID. Still working on developing full Committee for overall recommendations. Major issues will be developing a common direction and understanding of budget implications. Hope there is a way to begin again in early Fall. Walsh Possible location for a medical facility? A good potential use. Should be part of Committee's discussions.

Opportunities for Regionalization of certain services across Cape Towns - A controversial issue. Financial benefits are not clear yet. There is resistance town by town and department by department within the Towns.

Possible help from part-timers - Stay involved. Reach out to neighbors. TPRTA's program **Good Neighbor Truro** is a great example. Should be more activities like it. Meet with BOS &/or Town Manager periodically. Part-Time Resident Advisory Committee not working.

Windfall Revenue to Town from Rental Tax & Budget Cuts – The overall numbers will not be known until September 2020. It is increasingly difficult to provide the higher levels of service expected in an era of high costs for labor; there have to be some cut backs. Already staff members are taking on more work.

Rescind RTE (Residential Tax Exemption)? An issue that would go before Select Board but rescinding not likely. Possible raise beyond 20% - Hasn't come up yet. Not likely.

Cloverleaf Housing BOS position on environmental impact, density - Mixed. Some pro, some against. Need more factual information and public debate of the issues.

Commercial Marijuana Status. Growers need to take next steps with County and State.

Cathy Haynes thanked Jan Worthington for the time and information and in her closing remarks praised the work being done by The Good Neighbor Truro program. With 65 volunteers and working with the COA, the Farmers Market and the Truro Community Kitchen, they have been providing free delivery service of food, medications, mail, groceries, etc. and some small home repairs. Those needing such help or wishing to volunteer were directed to the TPRTA website for information. She thanked Regan McCarthy, Past President, for her ideas and work on the program.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11 AM

Respectfully submitted
Frank Korahais, TPRTA Secretary