



TRURO
PART-TIME
RESIDENT
TAXPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

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TPRTA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2024 MINUTES

Saturday, July 6, 2024 | 10:00 AM | On ZOOM

1. Meeting Commencement

- A quorum confirmed, the meeting Commenced at 10:05 AM; attendance included 50 members.
- Minutes of the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting were approved.
- Board reviewed procedures for the meeting, including a motion to move remaining business to the end of the meeting.

2. President's Report – Anthony Garrett

- Overview of a “very busy” year. Education on voter registration was a success. Survey results indicate that Part-time residents increased their voter registration to Truro – the number rose from 6% to 11%.
- The planned Special Town Meeting was rescheduled and major items (DPW, etc) were discussed.
- The Residential Tax Exception (RTE) is now 30%, maximum in Massachusetts is 35%.
- Town “Part-Time Resident Advisory Committee” (PTRAC) established. We welcome this and will work together. We see synergies and complimentary capacities and roles between TPRTA and this pTown Committee.
- Anticipated 2025 issues: the RTE, the Department of Public Works (DPW) building, the Walsh Property, and the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT).

3. TPRTA Survey – Regan McCarthy provided an overview of the main findings

- 665 households responded representing approximately 2,000 people, an increase from last TPRTA survey where 513 households responded. People were energized to convey their views. This is the largest Town survey conducted by any source to date
- 11% of part-time residents are now registered to vote in Truro. Of those not registered, about 50% said they were chilled by the challenges to voter registration in the Fall 2023. We need to see what we can do as a community to reassure part timers that they have a right to vote as long as they meet 3 simple criteria: 1.) that they declare Truro home and operationalize that faithfully *going forward*; 2) that they're not voting anywhere else in the state of Massachusetts or outside of Massachusetts; and 3) that they are not barred from any other reason from voting (e.g. felony record). It is important to note that amount of time in Truro doesn't determine full time or part time status as there is no state requirement for amount of time spent in Truro to affect the right to vote.
- About 80% have said post-pandemic their time in Truro during year stayed high, about the same or increased.
- Oldest member of the household cited: age 93; most frequently cited age is 69, while the average is 72, with about 70% in their seventies and sixties.
- On the Residential Tax exemption (RTE) more than 90% indicated that we should oppose the RTE completely with slightly more than 70% supporting a phased reduction. A small percentage support the RTE at 2023 level.
- Regarding regionalization of services (police, fire, EMS, schools, water and wastewater delivery, workforce, affordable/ attainable, and seasonal housing support), a majority of respondents agree we should work toward regionalizing with the exception being police and fire/EMS. Members view local police and fire/EMS central to well-being in Truro.
- Survey showed modest tax-based support for affordable workforce housing.

- Use of Town Services - more than 80% respondents use about the same level of services as before pandemic.
- 90% respondents rely on the TPRTA newsletter for news, followed well-behind by Provincetown Independent, Truro News, other community forums, friends and neighbors and to some extent social media, then by Town website and *Truro Talks*.
- TPRTA should focus on Town spending issues, voting rights and eligibility, water, being thoughtful about overdevelopment, and taxes, spending/over-spending and fiscal common sense.

4. Town Issues| Topics you Asked Us to Cover

- **Proposed DPW:** Proposition of 2 ½ override to appropriate up to \$2.831 million dollars for schematic design costs was approved. First phase requires additional environmental investigation and a second survey of the site. Proposed size of the facility reduced from 32,000 sq ft to under 25,000 sq ft ± with an aim to reduce further.
- **Truro Development:** There are continuing impacts to local small businesses due to lack of housing for workers. We need to consider appropriate levels of development. At the May 4, 2024 ATM, a phased plan for up to 160 units on the Walsh Property was approved.
- **Voting in Truro:** TPRTA helped to educate and provide technical information to part timers as well as to the Select Board on what is appropriate regarding part time residents' ability to vote in Truro. Our efforts to assist and inform people to help them in making their own decision was helpful, accurate and properly done.
- **Walsh Property Development:** Vote on May 4, 2024 ATM approved an initial phased approach to development of the property, for 50 to 80 units, potentially increasing to a total of 160 units. Continued outstanding issues on the property that need to be reviewed and discussed included water use and wastewater resources, topography, and a peak season traffic study. There is a new Ad Hoc Walsh Property Advisory Committee reporting directly to the Select Board. Committee Members are not yet posted to the Town website.

5. Q+A | Discussion with TPRTA Board and Attendees

- We were asked about the two houses moved to South Highland Road because of concerns with reported asbestos. Answer: the Town Manager insisted the homes be moved, asbestos and lead paint exist. There are reports that they are to be renovated, at significant cost.
- A Special Town Meeting in 2002 created an Affordable Housing Trust. On May 15, 2024, the Select Board proposed to create a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT). TPRTA obtained legal review of the warrant articles and this report expressed concern that the MAHT Board, once appointed, would have broad authority independent of the Select Board and weak guardrails, with limited voter engagement. Members indicated they are interested in the TPRTA Board staying engaged and aware of the MAHT.

6. Board Report

- Slate of Officers announced – All officers will continue in current roles
- Membership and Finance Reports; Membership is steady, good renewals. 1800 people regularly contact TPRTA. Voting membership exceeds 1,000 individuals. We have strong, cash positive financials.
- Encouraged members to ***“Run for something”*** - participate in Town Committees, become Meeting Monitors, or join the TPRTA Board. For Town committee openings, check the Town website.

7. Other Matters as members may raise

- The Board was asked to consider an increase in membership fees from \$35 annually to \$45. The board will discuss it within a board meeting.

8. Meeting Adjournment – 12:05 PM, moved and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Wynne and Caroline Smith