

Open Space Committee

Town of Truro

Minutes

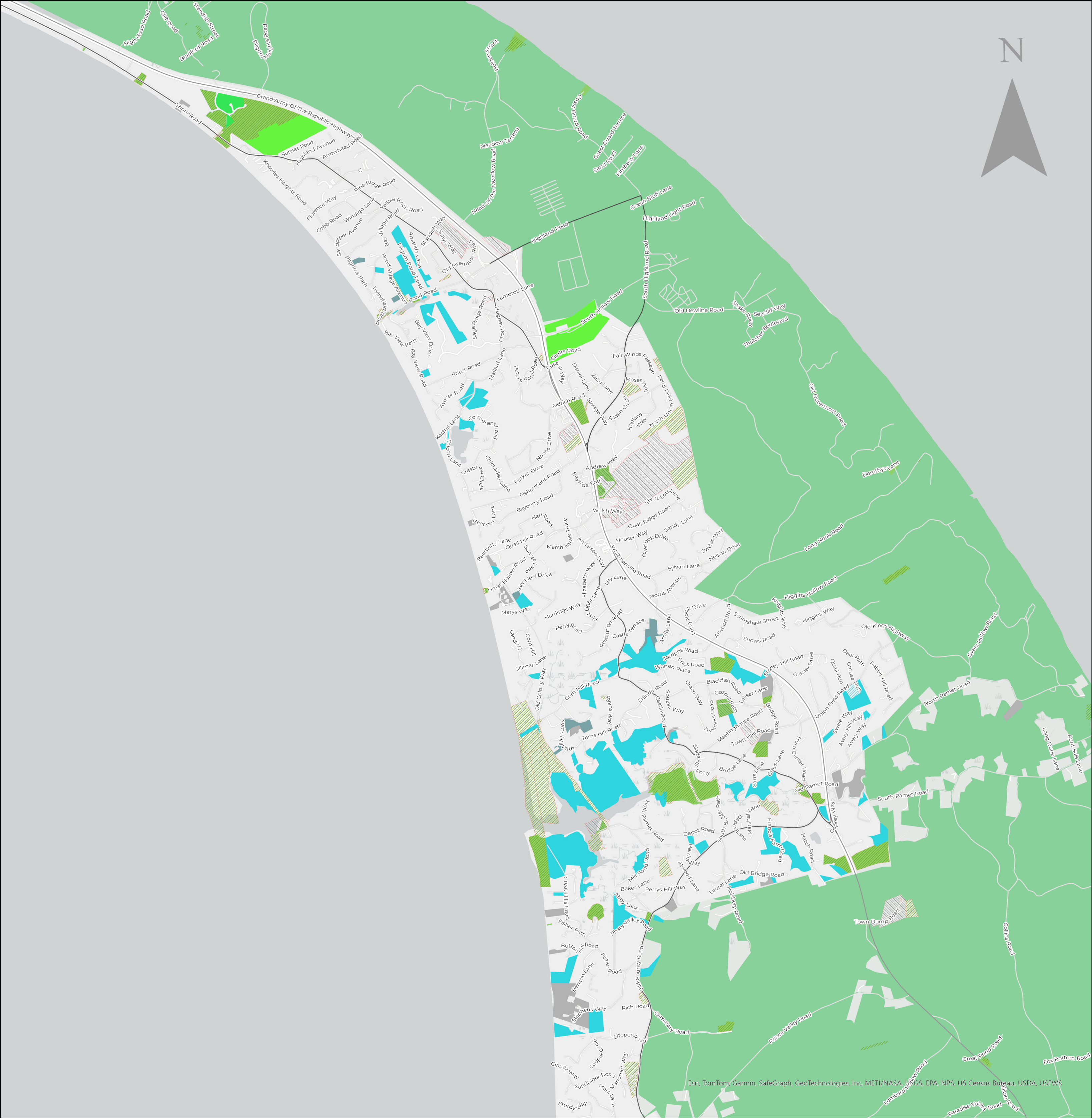
Remote Meeting of 03-19-2025

Present: Shari Stahl, chair; Tom Bow; John Marksbury; Laura English; Amy Graves, guest; Damion Clements, staff liaison

1. Chair Stahl called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.
2. Minutes of the March meeting approved as circulated.
3. The merger informational workshop held by the Select Board chair was not attended by members of this committee. Damion reported that the Recreation committee also was not represented at the meeting either. Bike and Walkways was present but expressed that it was not in favor of the proposed merger of the three committees. Damion pointed out that there are 37 standing committees placing a heavy demand on staff time and Board liaisons. Mergers where appropriate is a proposed solution. No action was taken at the merger meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the committee expressed for the record that the mergers could dampen volunteer enthusiasm and not result in an appreciable reduction of staff hours. A compatible merger with the Conservation Commission was suggested, which the Chair will explore and report back.
4. No action anticipated on the status of the OSRP until after Annual Town Meeting.
5. Brief discussion ensued on initiating inspection of the town's open space properties this spring. Tom Bow has offered to share methodology used by the Truro Conservation Trust to help guide our effort. It would be helpful to have Amy Graves on board for these inspections. Amy's application needs to be acted upon; matter will be brought to the attention of the Select Board Chair by Chair Stahl.
6. Tom Bow briefed the Committee on recent activities of the Truro Conservation Trust.
7. **Next meeting: Wednesday, May 28 at 1 pm (note earlier start time).**
8. Meeting adjourned, 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Marksbury



Truro Vacant Land

- Town of Truro
- Truro Conservation Trust
- Vacant (2024 assessors)
- Town of Truro
- Truro Conservation Trust
- Vacant

MassGIS Open Space

- National Park Service
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Town of Truro
- Town of Provincetown
- Truro Conservation Trust
- Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts
- Private or NGO

Consolidation of Town Committee – Options: Comparison of Select Board Charges or Missions of CC and CPC in reference to OSC

Conservation Commission

General Information

In accordance with the Charter passed at ATE, April 22, 1992, Chapter 6, Section 4, Paragraph 1, with the Board of Selectmen as the appointing authority. And, in conformity with MGL, Chapter 40, Sec. 8C, membership is to be not less than three members and not more than seven, with one-third of members' terms expiring each year and their successors appointed for three-year terms.

Responsibilities & Mission

The Conservation Commission administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act. The Conservation Agent of the Conservation Commission has information on obtaining local, state or federal environmental permits. Any work within 100 feet of a wetland, including clearing, filling, grading, building or altering broadly defined will require a permit. Any work within 200 feet of a river or perennial stream also requires review by the Conservation Commission. Vernal pools are also within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.

The Commission's mission is to protect public interest including public and private water supplies, ground water, flora and fauna and their habitat, and areas for passive recreation. It also endeavors to prevent or reduce flooding, and prevent erosion and pollution. It does this by overseeing any activity that may alter a resource area or its buffer zone. Resource areas include any bank, fresh water wetland, beach, marsh, wet meadow, bog, swamp, estuary, creek, river, stream, pond, lake, or vernal pool or any land under said waters. They also include bordering land subject to flooding (consisting of the 100-year flood plain) and isolated land subject to flooding.

Board Members

Name	Title
Connie Mather	Member-Appointment expires 6/30/2025
Clint Kershaw	Member-Appointment expires 6/30/2025
Linda Noons-Rose	Vice Chair-Appointment expires 6/30/2026
Carol Girard-Irwin	Chair-Appointment expires 6/30/2025

Name	Title
Robert White	Member-Appointment expires 6/30/2027
Sharon Basco Koch	Member-Appointment Expires 6/30/2026
Diane Messinger	Member-Appointment expires 6/30/2025

Community Preservation Committee

General Information

The composition of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), the appointing authority, and the term of office for the committee members is as follows: one member of the Conservation Commission, as designated by the Commission; one member of the Historical Commission, as designated by the Commission; one member of the Housing Authority, as designated by the Authority; one member of the Open Space Committee, as designated by the Committee; one member of the Planning Board, as designated by the Board; one member of the Recreation Commission, as designated by the Commission; and three members at large, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Meetings held as needed.

Community Preservation Committee Charge

[Charge from the Select Board](#) of the Open Space Committee - link

In accordance with the Truro Town Charter, Chapter 6-4-4, and Article 28 which was approved by the voters of Truro at their ATM on April 26, 2005, the Board of Selectmen hereby establishes the Community Preservation Committee as a standing committee with the following Charge:

The Community Preservation Committee shall manage and administer the implementation of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA) in Truro in accordance with the most current iteration of the Truro Community Preservation Committee Bylaw ([initial iteration attached](#)).

Structure and Term

The Committee structure and member terms are as defined in the above referenced Bylaw.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Board Members

Name	Title
Ellen English	Member at Large-Appointment expires 6/30/2027
Vacancy -	Recreation Representative-Appointment Expires June 30, 2023
Sharon Stahl	Open Space Rep-Appointment Term ends 6/30/2026
Caitlin Townsend	Planning Board Rep-Appointment expires 6/30/2025
Mary Rose	Co-Chair- Member At Large-Appointment expires 6/30/2026
Bonnie Brown-Bonse	Member at Large-Appointment expires 6/30/2027
Jim Summers	Co-Chair, Historical Commission Representative-Appointment expires 6/30/2026
Clint Kershaw	Conservation Commission Representative to CPC-Appointment expires June 30, 2027
Betty Gallo	Housing Authority Representative to CPC (5 yr term)-Appointment expires 6/30/2028
Robin Huibregtse	CPC Coordinator

Revised Open Space Charge – July 23, 2024

In accordance with the Truro Town Charter, paragraph 6-4-6, the Board of Selectmen has voted to revise the Charge to the Open Space Committee originally established on January 13, 1998, and amended on April 28, 1998, October 1, 2001, and May 18, 2005, November 30, 2010, and July 23, 2024.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE CHARGE

Guided by the vision statement and growth policy in the 2024 Truro Local Comprehensive Plan – and in the spirit of Truro’s Land Acknowledgement Statement of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional respect of the land -- the Open Space Committee will focus on stewardship of Truro’s land and natural resources while recognizing the need for housing, business and economic development. Committee initiatives will be aimed at protecting Truro’s natural, cultural and historical resources, taking into consideration the work of other entities with related missions, such as the Truro Conservation Commission, the Truro Recreation Commission, the Truro Conservation Trust, the Truro Historical Commission and the Cape Cod National Seashore.

The committee will:

- Review the Truro Open Space and Recreation Plan annually and advise the Select Board on recommended actions. Working with the Recreation Commission, update Truro Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years and submit for approvals as required.
- Work with the Truro Conservation Trust and other involved committees and agencies, including the Cape Cod National Seashore, in the development and support of plans for bike paths, hiking trails, civic parks, greenbelts, and other conservation and recreation programs (active and passive).
- Propose and prepare grant applications to the Select Board that qualify for Open Space funds under the Community Preservation Act. Submit such applications to Truro’s Community Preservation Committee and oversee any approved projects.
- Maintain an inventory of town-owned open spaces – listed in Truro Open Space and Recreation Plan. Recommend whether any of these properties should be protected in perpetuity, sold or swapped for municipal benefit.
- Collaborate with the Truro Conservation Commission and the Truro Conservation Trust regarding oversight and stewardship responsibilities for open space parcels.
- Appoint one member of the Open Space Committee to the Community

Preservation Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Community Preservation Act (MGL ch. 44B.)

- Report annually to Select Board on the committee's activities.

The Open Space Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Select Board, with one of the five recommended by and representing the Truro Conservation Trust. Members will serve staggered terms to be determined by the Select Board