

Truro Part-Time Residents Advisory Committee  
01-06-25 Meeting Minutes  
Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm

A quorum of 6 of 7 allotted Committee members was present as follows:

Phineas Baxandall

Stephen Duncombe

Linda Brady (minutes recorder)

Lisa Peets

Kathleen Higgins

Ken Field

(note that the Committee currently has one vacancy)

Committee Members not present:

(none)

Town Staff present:

Susan Areson, Select Board

Others present:

Fred Goldsmith

Damien Clements

I. Approval of minutes of 11/18/24

Moved, Seconded.

Roll call vote: unanimous approval with amendment

II. Public Comment

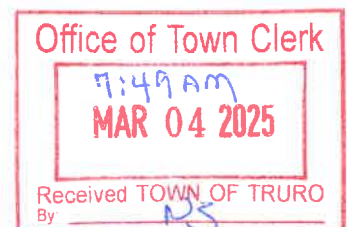
(None)

III. Review and Consideration of Part Timer Responses

There were approximately 140 responses posted in response to the request for feedback. Over 90% were comments from part time residents. While this participation is welcome, it represents a fraction of the part time residents.

Each board member presented what they believed should be the 4 priorities of the committee. Priorities are RTE/taxes/fees, affordable housing, budgeting, health care, options for meaningful engagement in town decisions, e.g., institutionalized representation of part timers on regulatory committees and with Select Board, traffic safety, i.e., Rte. 6, communication, the environment ( e.g., beach erosion, access, development and water).

Noted were that the responses included conflicting and diverse opinions, e.g., the desire for more services and concern about cost/spending.



The Committee agreed that communicating the very positive comments under the kudos section was important.

IV. Setting PTRAC Priorities for 2025

Discussion ensued as to how to narrow the Committee's priorities to a manageable number, e.g., 5-6, informed by research, where needed.

In response to the question about what resources the town could lend to this process, Sue Areson offered that the current state law that allows the RTE does not allow means testing.

She stated that in some instances, around voice/representation, charters would need to be changed which although a lengthy process was possible.

She informed about the Budget Task Force meeting every Tuesday at 8:30 am and that individuals can speak at town meetings.

It was decided that creating of subcommittees would be most efficient and not violate the open meeting law.

Sue Areson offered that considering that the committee had a membership of 7 (vacancy could be counted) that 2-3 people could serve on a subcommittee.

Agreed upon was the formation of two subcommittees:

Finance-Chair- Phineas Baxandall, Linda Brady, Kathleen Higgins

Voice – Chair-Lisa Peets, Stephen Duncombe, Ken Field

Multiple issues would be considered by each subcommittee and a list of priorities developed based on further information and research. For example, Finance Subcommittee matters would include but not be limited to RTE/taxes/fees, budget, etc., and similarly the Voice Subcommittee would consider issues related to communication, representation/voice, meaningful engagement/participation.

The objectives for next month's meeting are for the subcommittees to develop a proposal with recommendations to and/or a request of the Select Board. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

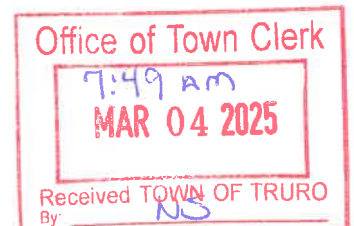
The chairs will reach out to the subcommittee members.

The next committee meeting will be held on February 3, 2025, at 5pm.

VI. Filling PTRAC Vacancy

Sue Areson will check to see if anyone has applied, and committee members will consider who else they know that might be interested in serving  
Ask your friends!

VII. Report from Sue Areson (Select Board Chair)



The budget talks are ongoing, Tuesdays at 8:30 am. There will be a decision on the town meeting date. Ongoing is the town management watering plan and water study and its relationship to the Walsh property.

VIII. Report from Darrin Tangeman  
(Not present)

IX. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment there was a public comment, Fred asked whether the responses will be posted. Sue Areson stated that she would check to make sure that this was legal. Following discussion, the Committee agreed and requested that if there weren't any issues with posting the results, that the unedited results be posted.

Move to adjourn and seconded.

By unanimous vote, meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm

