

Feb 7, 2025 4:00 PM

Truro Commission on Disabilities

Attendees: Hannah King, Amy Rogers, Deborah Smulian, Damion Clements

Agenda

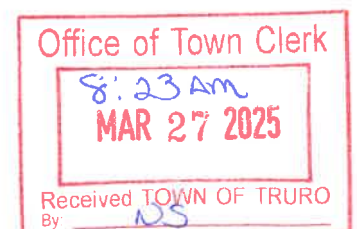
Topic	Time	Team member
Review minutes	5 min	Hannah King
Old business	10 min	
New business	10 min	
Other		

Summary or key decisions

Action Items

- **Contact Mary and Jared:** Discuss changing the meeting time to 3:00 or 4:00 PM on Fridays.
- **Scheduled joint meeting:** Coordinate with Ann Courtney for a joint Beach Advisory and Disabilities Commission meeting May 1, 2025 to discuss the grant application.
- **Hannah will send meeting minutes:** Distribute the minutes from the current meeting to all members.
- **Follow up with Jane and Mary:** Confirm the date and time for the April meeting.
- **Communication Boards:** Share information about the communication boards, including desired icons, with Aimee to gather feedback and potentially present at her event.

Amy



- **Provide feedback:** Share thoughts on the communication boards and potential icons with Damion.

Deborah

- **Gather input:** Collect feedback from the Disabilities Commission on specific needs and priorities for the town-wide senior/multi-generational needs assessment.
- **Represent the Commission:** Attend the meeting with the consultant when they are ready to discuss the senior/multi-generational needs assessment and advocate for the Commission's priorities, including:
 - Multi-generational accessibility in public spaces (e.g., Puma Park renovations)
 - Digital accessibility of the town website
 - Potential for multi-generational caregiver support services
- **Follow up with Damion:** Share any relevant updates or insights from the needs assessment meeting and discuss potential caregiver support initiatives.

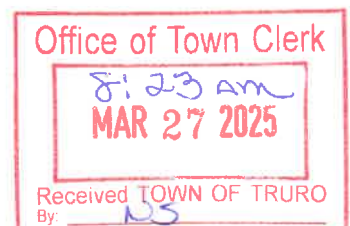
Key Topics

CPC Grant Update

- **Grant Approved:** The Disabilities Commission received approval for the full requested amount of **\$350,000** from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC).
- **Permitting Costs:** A significant portion of the grant (**\$100,000**) is allocated for permitting fees, which are necessary to proceed with the project.
- **Project Timeline:** The project timeline extends into **2026**, with bidding and construction anticipated to be completed by **2027**.
- **Lowest Bidder Concern:** Concerns were raised about the requirement to select the lowest bidder, potentially impacting the quality of work. Damion highlighted the importance of a detailed proposal process to mitigate this risk.

Puma Park Renovations

- **Renovation Plans:** The Recreation Commission is initiating plans for renovations at Puma Park, with a focus on immediate repairs and improvements.
- **March Kickoff Event:** A community event is scheduled for March 29 to gather input and ideas for the park renovations.



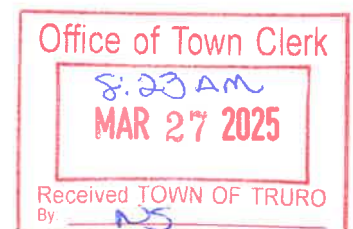
- **Accessibility Focus:** The Disabilities Commission aims to collaborate with the Recreation Commission to ensure the renovations prioritize multi-generational accessibility, incorporating features such as:
 - Benches and shade structures
 - Safe and accessible playground surfaces
 - Communication boards
- **Funding for Communication Boards:** The Friends of the Library previously pledged \$1,500 towards communication boards, but the total cost is estimated to be at least \$4,000.

Town-Wide Senior/Multi-Generational Needs Assessment

- **Upcoming Meeting:** Deborah will be attending a meeting on Wednesday with a consultant to discuss the design and implementation of a town-wide senior/multi-generational needs assessment.
- **Collaboration and Funding:** The assessment aims to foster collaboration between town committees and potentially secure funding for identified needs.
- **Previous Assessment Concerns:** A previous needs assessment in **2018** faced challenges due to perceived poor communication and lack of clarity regarding its purpose and impact. The Commission emphasizes the importance of clear communication and a well-defined scope for the upcoming assessment.
- **Commission Priorities:** The Disabilities Commission identifies several key priorities for the assessment:
 - Multi-generational accessibility in public spaces
 - Digital accessibility of the town website, including closed captioning for town meetings and online content.
 - Exploration of multi-generational caregiver support services, potentially modeled after a program in Chatham.

Caregiver Support

- **Need for Services:** The discussion highlighted the need for caregiver support services in Truro, encompassing various age groups and caregiving situations.
- **Potential Models:** The Commission discussed the possibility of establishing a multi-generational caregiver support group or exploring options for respite care, drawing inspiration from a program in Chatham.
- **Weekend Availability:** The importance of offering support services on weekends to accommodate working caregivers was emphasized.



- **Coordination and Resources:** The Commission recognizes the need to coordinate with existing resources and explore potential funding sources to develop comprehensive caregiver support initiatives.

Decisions Made

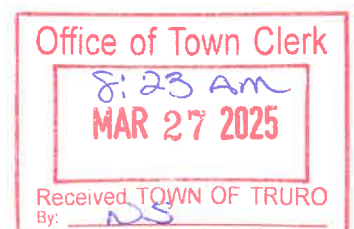
- **Meeting Time Change:** The Commission tentatively agreed to change their regular meeting time, pending confirmation from Mary and Jane.
- **Joint Meeting in May:** A joint meeting with the Beach Advisory Commission is scheduled for May 1st at 4:00 PM to discuss the grant application and next steps.

Next Steps

- **Meeting Time Confirmation:** Hannah and Amy will confirm the availability of Mary and Jane for a meeting time change to 3:00 or 4:00 PM on Fridays.
- **Needs Assessment Meeting:** Deborah will represent the Commission at the needs assessment meeting on Wednesday and advocate for the identified priorities.
- **Puma Park Collaboration:** The Commission will engage with the Recreation Commission to contribute to the planning and design of Puma Park renovations, ensuring multi-generational accessibility is prioritized.
- **Caregiver Support Exploration:** The Commission will further explore potential models and resources for developing multi-generational caregiver support services in Truro.

Conclusion

- **Positive Momentum:** The meeting reflected positive momentum with the successful CPC grant approval and the opportunity to contribute to Puma Park renovations and the town-wide needs assessment.
- **Collaboration is Key:** The importance of collaboration with other town committees and community stakeholders was emphasized throughout the meeting.
- **Advocating for Accessibility and Support:** The Commission remains committed to advocating for the needs of individuals with disabilities and promoting accessibility and inclusivity throughout Truro.
- CPC grant discussion



- Successful submission and granted the full amount \$350K
- Amy asked to be part of the discussion for the vision and design for the Corn Hill project
- Recreation is updating Puma Park Playground- asking the be a part of
- Deborah shared that the town is going to be holding another Needs Assessment
 - Caregivers support group
 - Closed Captioning on all meetings including Town Meeting
- Joint meeting with Beach Advisory Committee May 1, 2025 meeting @ 4:00 pm

Action items

- ☐ Schedule March/April meeting
- ☐

Adjourn at 4:32

