



TOWN OF TRURO

BOARD OF REGISTRARS
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2024 – 4:00 pm
BOARD OF REGISTRARS MEETING



Members Present (Quorum): Elisabeth Verde (Chair); Heather Harper (Clerk); Julie Cataldo (Member)

Members Absent: Elizabeth Sturdy (Vice Chair)

Other Participants: Lauren Goldberg (Town Counsel and Managing Attorney at KP Law); Monica Kraft (Complainant and Truro Voter); Anne Greenbaum (Respondent)

The meeting convened at 4:03 pm, Friday, January 5, 2024, by Chair Verde who opened the meeting via the Zoom videoconference platform, at the Community Center.

Chair Verde read aloud the process for these hearings as well as housekeeping rules for those in attendance. Chair Verde noted that there would be no public comment this evening and this meeting was not being livestreamed.

Review of Board of Registrars' Minutes:

Chair Verde reviewed the minutes from October 18, 2023 with the Members for corrections or edits and there were none.

Clerk Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Member Cataldo seconded the motion.

By all in favor vote of 3-0-0, motion carries.

Chair Verde reviewed the minutes from November 3, 2023 with the Members for corrections or edits and there were none. Member Cataldo noted that she was not present at that meeting and abstained.

Clerk Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Chair Verde seconded the motion.

By all in favor vote of 2-0-1, motion carries.

Hearing:

Anne Greenbaum – Chair Verde announced this hearing was based upon a submitted complaint by Ms. Kraft challenging the voter registration status of Ms. Greenbaum.

Chair Verde swore in Ms. Kraft and Ms. Greenbaum.

Chair Verde then read aloud the evidence listed as exhibits to include the summons to Ms. Greenbaum.

Ms. Kraft thanked Ms. Greenbaum for her appearance and the several documents which Ms. Greenbaum submitted to Ms. Kraft. Ms. Kraft presented her evidence to include Ms. Greenbaum's Residential Tax Exemption in Boston, Massachusetts and a personal property tax for the Town of Truro which is not for primary residents.

Chair Verde noted that Ms. Kraft's complaint included a third claim that Ms. Greenbaum filed personal income tax filings in Boston but Ms. Kraft said that she did not receive the documentation.

Ms. Greenbaum introduced herself and then requested that the Truro Part-Time Resident Taxpayer's Association (TPRTA) memorandum dated August 6, 2023, and the TPRTA email from summer or fall of 2023 be excluded from the hearing. Ms. Greenbaum noted that she registered to vote in 2017 and this material had no bearing on her voter registration.

Chair Verde said that neither party had submitted the documents to which Ms. Greenbaum referred. Ms. Greenbaum said that if the documents were not exhibits then she would move on.

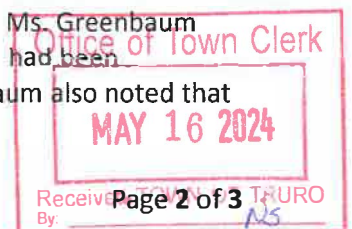
Ms. Greenbaum said that she lived at 22 Gospel Path in Truro, Massachusetts, and that she has been registered to vote since January 27, 2017. Ms. Greenbaum said that she has been married for 19 years and she and her partner have owned their home for over 21 years. Ms. Greenbaum made the decision to make Truro her home when she retired while her partner was still employed at Bridgewater State University so mail was still delivered to the Boston house. Ms. Greenbaum's partner paid the bills and that is why the bills went to Boston.

Ms. Greenbaum's partner is now fully retired and now manages the Truro Food Pantry and serves on the Board of the Council on Aging and is the volunteer manager there. The couple are in the process of selling their Boston house. Once the Boston house is sold, Ms. Greenbaum said that they will no longer pay the personal property tax in Truro.

Ms. Greenbaum described her involvement in Truro prior to registering to vote. Her interest in the community led to her election to the Planning Board in May 2019 and she became Chair of the Planning Board that December. Ms. Greenbaum served as Chair until September 2023 and now serves as Vice Chair. Ms. Greenbaum then outlined the numerous efforts and collaborations with which she has been involved to support local government as well as her volunteer activities.

Ms. Greenbaum stated that her Massachusetts driver's license and automobile documents reflected her Truro address. Ms. Greenbaum also noted that she has paid an excise tax in Truro for the last four years. Ms. Greenbaum said that the utility bills and Transfer Station records for their vehicles reflect year-round usage. The family's two dogs are licensed in Truro. Ms. Greenbaum said that she was baffled by the voter registration challenge seven years after she registered. Through Chair Verde, Ms. Greenbaum asked Ms. Kraft why she lodged a complaint now and asked what changed.

There were no questions from the Board but Ms. Kraft had several follow-up questions for Ms. Greenbaum through Chair Verde. Ms. Kraft asked if Ms. Greenbaum had submitted a Residential Tax Exemption (RTE) in Truro and Ms. Greenbaum said that she had not. Ms. Kraft asked Ms. Greenbaum why she had submitted an RTE in Boston and Ms. Greenbaum replied that the house had been purchased over twenty years ago and she never thought about it again. Ms. Greenbaum also noted that



the RTE in Boston had no bearing on this hearing. Ms. Kraft responded that one attests that the home listed on the RTE is where the individual is domiciled. Chair Verde noted that Ms. Greenbaum had explained that Ms. Greenbaum and her partner divided their time in Boston and Truro.

Chair Verde, on behalf of Ms. Greenbaum, then asked Ms. Kraft why she filed the complaint now and Ms. Kraft replied that she had just been made aware of Ms. Greenbaum's RTE in Boston.

Ms. Greenbaum had no other questions for Ms. Kraft and made a statement that Truro is her home.

Chair Verde confirmed with Ms. Kraft and Ms. Greenbaum had no other witnesses in this matter and both parties replied in the affirmative.

Chair Verde then led the Members in the discussion of this matter. Members unanimously agreed that Ms. Greenbaum had provided sufficient evidence that she was a properly registered voter in Truro.

Member Cataldo made a motion that Anne Greenbaum had submitted sufficient information that she was a properly registered voter.

Chair Verde seconded the motion.

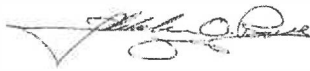
Voted all in favor, 3-0-0, motion carries.

Member Cataldo made a motion to adjourn at 4:40 pm.

Clerk Harper seconded the motion.

Voted all in favor, 3-0-0, motion carries.

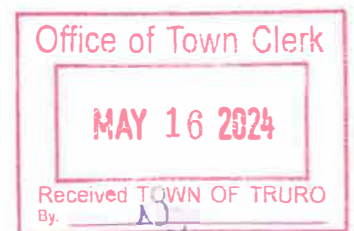
Respectfully submitted,



Alexander O. Powers
Board/Committee/Commission Support Staff

Attachment:

Legal Notice





TOWN OF TRURO

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PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

**NAME OF BOARD/
COMMITTEE:**

Board of Registrars

DATE OF MEETING: Friday, January 5, 2024

TIME OF MEETING: 4:00 pm

LOCATION OF MEETING:

Truro Community Center, 7 Standish Way, North Truro, MA 02652

AGENDA TOPIC:

1. Review of Board of Registrars minutes. Votes may be taken.
2. Public Hearing- To answer to the matter set forth in the complaint filed by Monica Kraft related to the voter residency status of Anne Greenbaum in the Town of Truro. A copy of the complaint is posted on the Board of Registrars page on the Town web site.

