

Select Board Minutes

November 19, 2024

Via Zoom Platform (Hybrid)

Select Board Members Present: Susan Areson-Chair; Robert Weinstein-Vice Chair; Nancy Medoff-Clerk; Susan Girard-Irwin-Member; Stephanie Rein-Member

Others Present: Kelly Clark-Assistant Town Manager; Jarrod Cabral-DPW Director; Lili Flanders (Climate Action Committee Chair); Mitchell Buck (Woods Hole Group Senior Coastal Engineer/ Project Manager); Sascha Lukovenko (Vice President Solar Simplified); Dennis O'Brien Truro Resident); Suzanne Bergeron (Truro Resident); Susan Rocca (Truro Resident); Joseph Pescatore (Truro Resident); Bruce Ployer (Truro Resident); Michael Fee (Truro Resident); Denise McWilliams (Truro Resident)

Absent: None

Chair Areson opened the meeting at 6:01 pm and read aloud the information for members of the public to join the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Areson read aloud the rules for the public to follow when making public comments.

Chair Areson recognized the following individuals who made public comments: Dennis O'Brien who requested the Select Board make a statement condemning the actions of Vice Chair Weinstein at the recent Ad Hoc Building Committee meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

INTRODUCTION TO NEW EMPLOYEES

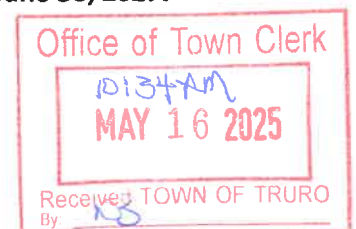
None

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

- A. Interview and Possible Nomination of (1) Truro Representative to the Barnstable Human Rights Advisory Commission: Suzanne Bergeron

Suzanne Bergeron believes this commission promotes equality and human rights through education and outreach and ties into the work she has already been doing in her career working as educator on human rights and economic well-being with a focus on gender and LGBTQ rights. She has been a resident of Truro for three years and has noted various issues around equality that still exist on Cape Cod. She feels her experience in developing networks and educational programs in diverse communities qualifies her for this position.

**Vice Chair Weinstein moved to appoint Suzanne Bergeron as Truro's representative liaison on the Barnstable Human Rights Advisory Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2027.
Member Rein seconded the motion.**



Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson – Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

B. Interview and Possible Appointment of Alternate to Truro Council on Aging Board: Susan Rocca

Susan Rocca has lived in Truro for a few years and has volunteered to serve the town in that time, though she would like to do more. She believes the COA is important to the town. As a friendly and empathetic person she feels she would be good at working with the group on the board. Member Girard-Irwin stated that she knows Ms. Rocca has worked at the Community Kitchen and the Pantry and is therefore familiar to the COA.

Member Girard-Irwin made a motion to appoint Susan Rocca to the Council on Aging Board as an alternate member for a one-year term to end June 30, 2025.

Clerk Medoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson – Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

C. Interview and Possible Appointment of (2) Full Members to the Truro Concert Committee:

Joseph Pescatore and Bruce Ployer

Joseph Pescatore:

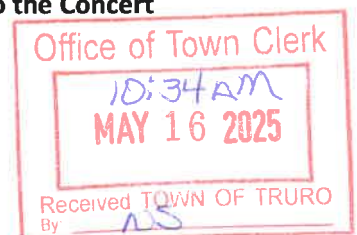
Mr. Pescatore recently retired and moved to Truro full-time. He was an art teacher for 42 years at Parsons and a school on Long Island and has volunteered at events at the Nassau County Museum of Art. He has attended concerts at the Truro library.

Bruce Ployer:

Mr. Ployer has been a resident of Truro since 2018 after retiring from Northeastern University, where he worked as the campus curator and had responsibilities for programming in the arts. He has been volunteering for WOMR radio, working on events and hosting two shows. He loves music and has attended concerts at the library. He feels his experience in project management and programming and his work at the university has helped him to be able to work on a team.

Vice Chair Weinstein moved to appoint Joseph Pescatore and Bruce Ployer to the Concert Committee for three-year terms which will end on June 30, 2027.

Clerk Medoff seconded the motion.



Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson – Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

- D. Interview and Possible Nomination of (1) Voting Alternate Member to the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission: Jack Farley*, Michael Fee, Kevin Grunwald*, and Denise McWilliams (*Previously Interviewed)

Michael Fee:

Michael Fee has been a voter in Truro since 2020 and is currently a member of the Finance Committee and the Human Services Committee, as well as volunteering at various non-profits. He practiced land-use law and litigation in Boston for 35 years and has served on many boards and committees. He feels he would be able to build working relationships with the Seashore even when their goals are not aligned with the needs of residents. He was on the Payomet Committee and helped negotiate to obtain a lease with the Seashore.

Denise McWilliams:

Denise McWilliams has been a homeowner in Truro since 2015. She spends a lot of time in the Seashore and is aware of the challenges affecting natural environments (erosion, climate change, etc.) as well as the needs of the town (housing, infrastructure). Her work as an attorney has given her experience in helping two opposing entities find common ground.

Vice Chair Weinstein felt that Michael Fee is uniquely qualified to deal with big bureaucracy. Member Rein spoke highly of Mr. Farley and Mr. Grunwald but also agreed with Vice Chair Weinstein and supported the nomination of Michael Fee. Clerk Medoff was impressed with Michael Fee's background and ability to work with the National Seashore, which is challenging but necessary to address issues faced by the town. Member Girard-Irwin agreed that Michael Fee is a good candidate due to his previous work with his National Seashore, though her second choice was Denise McWilliams, who she hopes applies for the Conservation Commission. Chair Areson agreed with Member Girard-Irwin on all points.

Vice Chair Weinstein moved to nominate Michael Fee to the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission as an alternate voting member with a term to last two years.

Clerk Medoff seconded the motion.

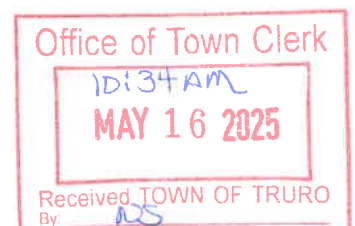
Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye



Chair Areson – Aye
So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

STAFF/ COMMITTEE UPDATES

E. Energy Committee Update-NEVI Location Update

Presenters: Brian Boyle and Bob Higgins-Steele, Co-Chairs of the Energy Committee

DPW Director Jarrod Cabral stated they would like to table this item to the second meeting in December. They had reached out to DOT to get more information, and they did not have much to update.

TABLED ITEMS

None

SELECT BOARD ACTION

A. Longnook Beach Access Update and Discussion

Presenter: Jarrod Cabral, DPW Director

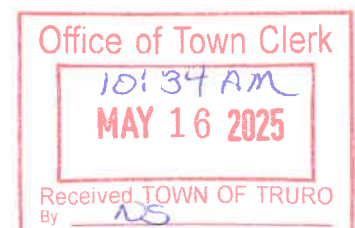
DPW Director Cabral stated that they had partnered with the Center for Coastal Studies and the Woods Hole Group to evaluate safer alternatives to access Longnook Beach. Center for Coastal Studies monitored the erosion for seven weeks and provided data to the Woods Hole Group. They had five alternatives for access to present. Two alternatives do not impact parking, four of the alternatives involve going straight down the dune to the water, and one alternative creates a longer path to the north that impacts National Seashore property, which would require a special permit.

Mitchell Buck, Woods Hole Group Senior Coastal Engineer/ Project Manager, reviewed more specific details for each alternative. They tried to avoid using hard structural features, such as stairs or retaining walls, and instead plan to use a natural path, preferably with minimal impact on the parking lot and shallower cuts into the dune or bluff. They recommend Alternative Five that removes a smaller portion of the parking lot and does not impact parking spaces, moves a shed that is technically on NPS property, and uses a natural path that goes across the bluff with the shallowest cut. DPW Director Cabral stated that Alternative Five will remove unsafe elements, including remnants of an old roadway from the bluff that is on NPS land. The hope is NPS is amenable to this plan. Mr. Buck also noted that pointing the path southeast may lessen the impact of Nor'easters. They will be able to examine data to predict beach erosion and flooding and therefore coastal change, but they will likely need to reestablish the path each year. A resident of Longnook Road is in favor of Alternative Five.

Chair Areson moved to authorize staff to pursue Alternative Number Five and to file the special permit with NPS.

Clerk Medoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:



Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye
Member Rein - Aye
Clerk Medoff - Aye
Member Girard-Irwin - Aye
Chair Areson – Aye
So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

B. Presentation and Possible Vote to Enter Into an Agreement with Solar Simplified

Presenter: Lili Flanders, Climate Action Committee Chair

Lili Flanders spoke on behalf of the Energy Committee and the Climate Action Committee to share what Solar Simplified is offering for the town. Community Solar is a way to invest in cleaner energy obtained from further away on a solar farm, as opposed to an array placed on your own property. This then provides credits to reduce your energy usage and your monthly bill. Participating in Community Solar moves the town closer to its goal of decarbonization.

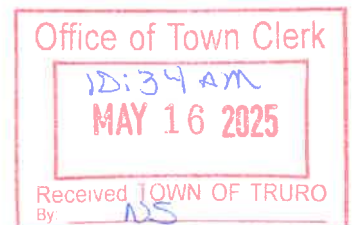
Solar Simplified has agreements with towns in other east coast states, and is looking to work with towns in Massachusetts, having already had operational roof top projects in Maynard, MA. The program guarantees a 10% reduction on your electric bill, or up to 20% for lower income homes through Eversource. The program also offers \$50 per enrollee to the town.

Chair Areson stated that they have sent some questions to Town Counsel and will not be able to vote on an agreement. Ms. Flanders was unsure if Solar Simplified had approached the Energy Committee or if they had reached out to them or other companies. Through personal experience, she has found a company out of Wellfleet difficult to work with. Assistant Town Manager Clark spoke with Town Counsel and was told that the town would have to do a formal procurement process to enter into a contract. She also stated that the Select Board could vote to direct staff to work with these committees to develop a procurement process for a community solar vendor.

Sascha Lukovenko, the Vice President, Sales & Marketing at Solar Simplified, stated that they work with municipalities to reach customers by more official means and provide more incentive for more communities and individuals to join. He also stated that a savings of 10% is guaranteed and 20% if you are able to show you are a low-income household.

Chair Areson moved to direct staff to work with the Climate Action Committee and Energy Committee to develop a procurement process for a community solar program.
Member Rein seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Clerk Medoff stated that she would like to see testimonials and references from customers and Mr. Lukovenko replied that references from municipalities have been provided to the Truro Committees with whom he has been working and could be provided directly to the Select Board as well. Assistant Town Manager Clark noted that items such as the fee provided per customer to the town and providing references could be included as requirements in the invitation for bids.



Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson – Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

C. Discussion on Addressing Concerns Regarding Select Board Liaison Conduct and Role Boundaries on the Ad Hoc Building Committee for the Future Public Works Facility

Presenter: Susan Areson, Chair

Vice Chair Weinstein read a statement he had written regarding this agenda item. He stated that he resigns from his position as the liaison to the Ad Hoc Building Committee and nominates Susan Girard-Irwin as his replacement.

Chair Areson stated that she wanted to discuss the liaison policy and noted that Member Girard-Irwin requested this agenda item. Member Girard-Irwin had watched the meeting held on November 7 that prompted this discussion and noted that the feedback she received from the public included questions about conduct and role boundaries. Policy #34 defines the role of the liaison and limits the involvement of the liaison in committee discussions, voicing their own opinions, and sharing information as a representative of the town.

Bob Higgins-Steele, Chair of the Ad Hoc Building Committee, appreciated the statement made by Vice Chair Weinstein. Chair Areson believes members of the Select Board must hold themselves to a higher standard and that for any comments made at board/committee meetings they should identify whether they are speaking as a member of the Select Board or a private citizen. Anger and raised voices are inappropriate.

In the Select Board Policy #34, it states that liaisons are not expected to attend meetings on a regular basis. The chair of the board/committee should reach out to inform the liaison that significant issues and/or actions are discussed. Currently, the Select Board are attending more meetings than required. Member Girard-Irwin deferred to Chair Areson to make the decision about appointing a new liaison to the Ad Hoc Building Committee.

Clerk Medoff moved to appoint Susan Girard-Irwin as Select Board liaison to the Ad Hoc Building Committee.

Vice Chair Weinstein seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

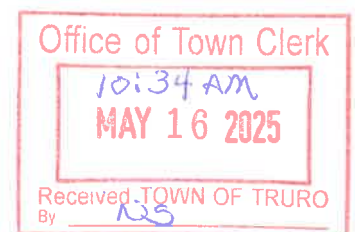
Member Rein - Aye

Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson – Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.



D. Discussion on Select Board Meeting Length

Presenter: Nancy Medoff, Select Board Clerk

Clerk Medoff stated that she raised this topic because the length of meetings has high potential to impact the effectiveness of the Board's decision-making and the well-being of participants. Research on organizational behavior, meeting dynamics, and human cognitive limits suggest that longer meetings negatively affect those involved in many ways, including public participation. Clerk Medoff created a list of seven suggestions informed by research of best practices.

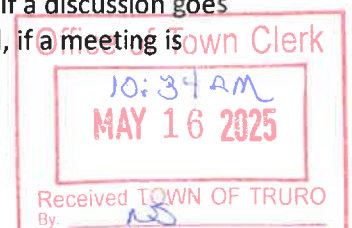
Her list included: 1. Implement a time limit and setting a beginning and ending time; 2. Prioritize agenda items; 3. Assign time limits (or guidelines) to each agenda item; 4. Assign time limits for public comment and applicants introductions for committees and boards, relying more heavily on the written applications; 5. Build in breaks for longer meetings; 6. Use the consent agenda for curb cuts and some staff reports as appropriate; 7. Encourage a "no repetition" rule.

Member Rein felt that limiting the length of meetings to less than three hours may be difficult and believes holding meetings at later times accommodates individuals who may not be available earlier. She does agree that setting an end time of 8pm is feasible but does not like the idea of telling participants that their awaited agenda item has been pushed to another meeting. She also believes the traditional schedule for meetings provides equity for participants and prioritizing specific items would disrupt that. She was in favor of setting time limits for agenda items and committee and board appointments. Adding curb cuts to the consent agenda would limit discussions of its impact and place it too late in the meeting to encourage individual comments. How they have used the consent agenda at Town Meeting has, however, been effective. Member Rein also suggested that during Select Board Reports, it may be helpful for members to report only on meetings they have attended and Select Board Hours occurring before the next meeting.

Vice Chair Weinstein appreciated the efforts made to address the issue of long meetings. He agrees with Member Rein and Clerk Medoff regarding time limits, though he acknowledged it is difficult to estimate the time needed for some agenda items. He stated it is not productive to hear repeated comments or off-topic comments. He agrees with Member Rein that curb cuts should not be added to the consent agenda.

Member Girard-Irwin agreed with Member Rein that it may be difficult to prioritize agenda items. She also felt that if the meeting is more than two hours, breaks are needed. Having more information in the packet that members would have read ahead of time would limit the time needed for a presentation and move more quickly into questions. Building more into applications to serve may also help reduce the time needed for introductions. She agreed with Member Rein about the Select Board Reports, adding that they could skip stating Select Board Hours since they are now posted in many places. She suggested the use of a "one page dashboard" that allows for explanation for the importance of agenda items.

Chair Areson stated that the length of meetings has been an ongoing problem and that setting a limit of two and a half hours would be feasible. She also noted that they attempt to prioritize Select Board Actions when preparing the agenda. They can and will begin estimating the time it will take for each agenda item. She agreed with other members on strategies to shorten interviews. She encouraged all to be more vigilant about what is added to the consent agenda. If a discussion goes beyond the time estimated they may choose to move it to a future agenda, and, if a meeting is



extending beyond the time allocated they may vote to extend the meeting or move items to a future agenda if that would not impact any participant attending the meeting. Member Rein suggested providing a visual to remind individuals of their time remaining to speak, though Chair Areson believed that may be disrespectful.

Clerk Medoff stated that she suggested meetings last 90 minutes because that is the limit research suggests to avoid cognitive decline. She also appreciated the statements of other Select Board members on how to structure Select Board Reports. She clarified her desire to speak to the Town Moderator because they are part of a Mass Moderator Association that has best practices to help people move along in their statements.

Assistant Town Manager Clark suggested that if Select Board members have Select Board Reports they would like to add to the packet, they can be sent to her the Thursday prior to the meeting. She also suggested that the combining of boards and committees would mean fewer interviews and appointments. The Select Board is also able to create policies that grant other town staff the authority to make certain decisions, so the Board does not have to dedicate time to doing so.

E. Discussion and Possible Appointments of Select Board Members to Budget Task Force

Presenter: Kelly Clark, Assistant Town Manager

Chair Areson pointed out that they had already assigned Select Board Members when they had done the liaison appointments. They were able to skip this agenda item.

SELECT BOARD REPORTS/COMMENTS

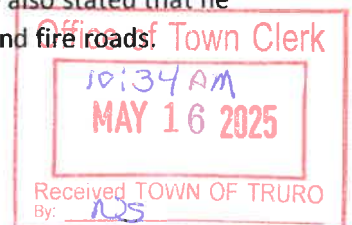
A. Select Board Reports

Clerk Medoff commended Chief Collins, Katie Riconda, and town staff on their communication during the recent fires in town, as well as Alex Lessin for the overview of the budget process available online. She attended the most recent Water and Sewer meeting, and they have created a communication task force to help them share facts with the community.

Member Girard-Irwin attended the School Committee meeting this week where they reviewed the goals and objectives for the school year as well as the most recent MCAS scores for students. They also discussed budget timelines with the finance director, who presented an overview of expectations and the collaboration with the Collins Center. Their policy manual was approved. She also attended the CPC meeting where members reviewed applications to provide feedback to the applicants and prepare for the next step in the process.

Member Rein attended the Beach Commission, where they discussed paddle-crafts. October 15 was the deadline to remove your paddle-craft, though there are many that remain, and next year there will be a fine for not removing your craft. They also discussed the fine for parking at the beaches, which is currently \$50, and they will likely bring this issue to the Select Board for discussion.

Vice Chair Weinstein reminded people walking in the National Seashore to be wary of hunters during bow-and-arrow season and to purchase an orange jacket for any pets. He also stated that he is concerned about the lack of maintenance by the National Seashore for signs and fire roads.



Chair Areson stated that the Part Time Resident Tax Payer Advisory Committee is looking for another member. They are working on an online forum for individuals to communicate appreciation and concerns and are setting their priorities for moving forward. She also raised concerns about water and the capacity limitations at the Walsh Property, as she has heard stated by Town Manager Tangeman.

B. Town Manager Report

Assistant Town Manager Clark stated that they are pulling the documents required for the closing of the Cloverleaf Project, which will be presented to the Select Board at the Work Session scheduled for 12/5/25 to provide feedback. They hope to have them ready to be an agenda item on which the Select Board may vote on the December 10th meeting. They are still discussing with the state the issues at 25 South Highland Road and thus far it seems they will be able to fund much of what has been submitted. Formal decisions for funding require more documentation, and once those have been provided they will be able to bring potential plans to the Select Board. Town offices are closed for Thanksgiving on 11/28 and 11/29, and the Transfer Station is closed on Wednesday 11/27 and Thursday 11/28. Chair Areson also noted that Jamie Calise will be filling in as Acting Town Manager on 11/28 and 29 while Assistant Town Manager Clark goes on vacation and Town Manager Tangeman remains on vacation.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Review/Approve and Authorize Signature:

1. Truro Center for the Arts; One Day Pouring License and Entertainment License

B. Review and Approve Appointment Renewals: None

C. Review and Approve 2025 Annual Business Licenses: None

D. Review and Approve 2025 Annual Alcohol Licensees: Truro Vineyards, Montano's Restaurant, Pamet Valley Package, and Salty Market Farmstand

E. Review and Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes: None

Chair Areson moved to approve the consent agenda as printed in the packet.

Vice Chair Weinstein seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Vice Chair Weinstein - Aye

Member Rein - Aye

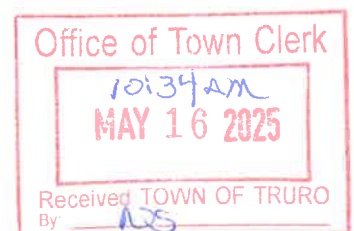
Clerk Medoff - Aye

Member Girard-Irwin - Aye

Chair Areson - Aye

So voted, 5-0-0, motion carries.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA



Regular Meeting: December 5, 2024, Work Session; December 10, 2024

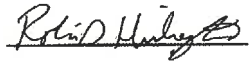
Assistant Town Manager Clark stated she hopes they can schedule an Executive Session before or after the Work Session on December 5. There was confusion as to the time for the December 5th meeting and whether the Work Session discussing the Town Manager's review scheduled for December 3rd had been moved to December 5th despite the known lack of availability of all Select Board members.

Clerk Medoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm.

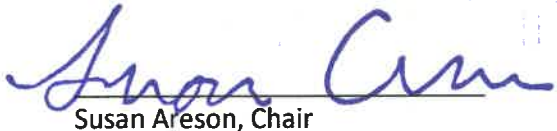
Member Girard-Irwin seconded the motion.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin D. Huibregtse
Board Support/CPC Coordinator


Susan Areson, Chair
Robert Weinstein, Vice Chair
Nancy Medoff, Clerk

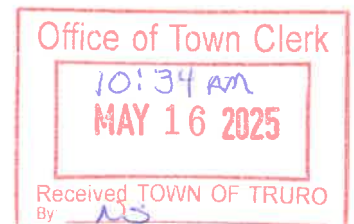
Stephanie Rein, Member



Susan Girard-Irwin, Member

Public Records Material Attachments

Application to Serve-S. Bergeron
Human Rights Advisory Commission Ordinance
Application to Serve-Susan Rocca
Application to Serve-Joseph Pescatore
Application to Serve-Bruce Ployer
Application to Serve-Michael Fee
Application to Serve-Denise McWilliams



Previously Interviewed: Application to Serve-Jack Farley
Previously Interviewed: Application to Serve-Kevin Grunwald
Letter Regarding CCNS Advisory Commission Appointment Nominations (January 2023)
Eversource 3 phase lines to 7 Standish Way from Eversource's Gridtwin software
Municipality Services Agreement
Solar Simplified Flyer
Application for an Entertainment License
Application for a One Day Pouring License
2025 Annual Alcohol ABCC Applications-signed by business owners
Chief of Police Approval Memo
2024 Annual alcohol licenses
Annual Alcohol Beverages Control Commission Renewal Certification 2025

