

**Truro Select Board Emergency Meeting
Friday, March 13, 2020
Truro Town Hall**

Select Board Members Attending: Janet Worthington, Chair; Susan Areson, Kristen Reed, Stephanie Rein, Robert Weinstein

Attending: Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer; Assistant Town Manager Kelly Clark; Police Chief Jamie Calise; Fire Chief Timothy Collins; Health Agent Emily Beebe

Chair Janet Worthington called the emergency meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Town Manager Rae Ann Palmer explained that the emergency meeting had been called to discuss response to the coronavirus, COVID-19. She recommended closing Town buildings to the public. Police, Fire, the Department of Public Works and the Transfer Station would stay open. COA lunches would offer pick up and delivery. Messages would be provided on ALERTruro. She suggested remaining flexible.

Police Chief Calise said the Police Department will depend upon the phone as much as possible, but it will be business as usual otherwise. He was concerned for the health of everyone if a member of the staff gets the virus. Health Agent Emily Beebe said she will be writing protocols for staff quarantine practices for staff in direct contact with anyone with the virus. Fire Chief Timothy Collins discussed work with Lower Cape Ambulance to minimize exposure to any known COVID-19 case. He offered the current statistics and said that containing people slows the spread. Ms. Palmer said ideally employees who can work from home will do so, but this can't happen across the board. She recommended social distancing for employees working inside the Town buildings.

Janet Worthington recommended a day by day approach. Health Agent Beebe said it is best to be proactive. Closing the buildings to the public is the right action. This will offer time to address staff needs should anyone get sick. Kristen Reed asked about planning for a longer time period. Ms. Palmer said planning now was based on 30 days to match the school closures. In a crisis, Town management needs to be on duty to protect employees and citizens. Ms. Palmer said plans will continue to prepare for Town Meeting on schedule. If postponement is necessary, the Town Moderator can postpone the meeting for 30 days.

Health Agent Emily Beebe reported on communications with the Health Agent Coalition (HAC) of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro and Provincetown. They meet once a week, remotely, to follow what is happening elsewhere and in each town and consider advisories from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Kristen Reed reported on problems in testing for the virus. Stephanie Rein and Chief Collins commented on the inaccuracy of statistics because of the unavailability of testing.

Susan Areson recommended briefings as often as needed because the virus is moving so fast. Ms. Worthington suggested the CDC website for information on testing. She mentioned that the President had declared a National Emergency earlier in the day. Fire Chief Collins repeated the three preventative measures known to work: thorough hand washing, keeping social distance, no direct bodily contact. Chief Calise recommended a Question & Answer sheet on the Town website. Susan Areson asked what provisions would be made for people who do not have Internet access. Janet Worthington said citizens need to hear a Truro-directed message. Postings on bulletin boards at the post offices or messages in the mailboxes were discussed. Clint Kershaw suggested putting notices in bags of Soup Kitchen meals provided to elders. Agent Beebe said she will discuss including messages with the COA and school for the meals they provide.

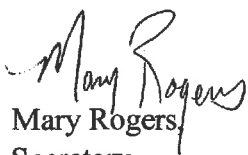
Stephanie Rein discussed the importance of limiting social interaction. Ms. Palmer said the St. Patrick's Day meal will be done be pick-up only. The student meals will be temporarily suspended but will be resume in a week. Messages can be added with the meals. Ms. Palmer said a mail-out to all local residents could be done. Chair Worthington noted that the next Select Board meeting on March 24, 2020 would be televised, offering an opportunity for health updates and related information. Planning Board Chair Ann Greenbaum said she would read updates at the beginning of each televised Planning Board meeting. Stephanie Rein asked about residents who don't have television service. Ms. Rein also asked about provisions for those taking out election papers for the Select Board position. She mentioned the number of second homeowners who are fleeing here from New York City.

Janet Worthington and Susan Areson offered to help with the message on Town building closures. Ms. Palmer said she would be holding a staff meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 in the morning and suggested having an afternoon Select Board meeting. The remainder of the meeting was spent constructing a message that provided current information, reassured citizens and promised to share more information as it became available. Ms. Palmer emphasized that the message should contain only accurate information. Susan Areson suggested that the Town acknowledge that it does not yet have answers to all the questions that have been raised.

The announcement to the citizens will be posted on the Town website and sent out by means of ALERTruro. Ms. Palmer provided a phone number for callers with questions to use. The next emergency Select Board meeting was planned for 2 p.m. on Monday. The other regulatory boards will continue to meet on schedule.

Kristen Reed moved to adjourn. Robert Weinstein seconded, and the motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Rogers
Secretary

Janet Worthington, Chair



Susan Areson

Kristen Reed, Clerk



Stephanie Rein



Robert Weinstein, Vice-chair

