

Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021 at 5:00pm
Via GoToMeeting Platform

Select Board Present: Chair-Robert Weinstein, Vice Chair-Kristen Reed, Clerk-Susan Areson, Janet Worthington, Stephanie Rein

Others Present: Town Manager-Darrin Tangeman, Assistant Town Manager-Kelly Clark, Health/Conservation Agent-Emily Beebe, John Donahue, Robert White, Jane Lucas, Franklin Haskell, Steve Corcoran, Ann Taggart, Candida Monteith

Chair Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and read off instructions regarding how to join the meeting.

Public Comment-None

Board/Committee/Commission Appointments

Interview and Appointment of Board of Health Vacancy (Alternate)-Candida Monteith

Ms. Monteith introduced herself. Member Reed asked Ms. Monteith what she felt were the most important issues facing Truro and the Board of Health. Ms. Monteith feels it is important that Truro maintains its identity and that we retain our sense of community. The Board of Health is a basic part of the Town and she will be learning what they do as she goes along. Member Areson pointed out that this is an Alternate position and it will be a great opportunity to learn. She encouraged Ms. Monteith to read the Board of Health Regulations and watch any of the recorded meetings online as Ms. Monteith stated that she had not. Chair Weinstein noted that to be a part of any regulatory body, an applicant needs to be a full-time resident and a registered voter in Town. He assumed she "checked off both of those boxes". Ms. Candida affirmed.

Member Areson made a motion to appoint Candida Monteith to the Board of Health as an Alternate member, filling an unexpired one-year term which expires June 30, 2021.

Member Worthington seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Interview and Appointment of Cultural Council Vacancy-Ann Taggart

Ms. Taggart introduced herself. Member Areson asked if Ms. Taggart spoke to the Chair of the Cultural Council and familiarized herself with what the Committee is doing and how she can participate. Ms. Taggart has spoken with the Co-Chair and has looked at the website and understands what the job entails.

Member Worthington made a motion to appoint Ann Taggart to the Truro Cultural Council for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Interview and Appointment of Cable and Internet Advisory Committee Vacancies-Steve Corcoran; Franklin Haskell

Steve Corcoran introduced himself. Member Reed asked if Mr. Corcoran had ever heard of municipal internet or of communities in Massachusetts that provide that service. Mr. Corcoran has read about it but is not very familiar with it. Chair Weinstein hopes Mr. Corcoran is aware that in prior years the Town had entered into a ten-year contract with Comcast, and the Town has just finished ratifying a new contract. He also mentioned the issue of the last mile with Open Cape.

Member Reed made a motion to appoint Steve Corcoran to the Cable and Internet Advisory Committee for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Franklin Haskell introduced himself. There were no questions for Mr. Haskell.

Member Reed made a motion to appoint Franklin Haskell to the Cable and Internet Advisory Committee, filling an unexpired three-year term expiring on June 30, 2021.

Member Areson seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Interview and Appointment of Commission on Disabilities Vacancy-Jane Lucas

Jane Lucas introduced herself. Member Worthington asked if Ms. Lucas was in Truro full or part time. Ms. Lucas is not a full-time resident of Truro. The Chair of the Commission on Disabilities, Susan Howe, wished to inform the Board that her committee is the only committee in the town that is allowed to have virtual participation year-round because it's a commission on disabilities and some people who are disabled aren't able to go in person to meetings. Regardless of whether Ms. Lucas is in Boston or Truro, she can still participate. Chair Howe hopes that further down the road the Select Board will talk about,

and decide, that they can keep going with their virtual meetings. Doing so will make it easier to keep people who are involved and make it easier to be part of a commission or board.

Member Areson made a motion to appoint Jane Lucas to the Commission on Disabilities for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2024.

Member Worthington seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Interview and Appointment of Pamet Harbor Commission Vacancy-Robert White; John Donahue
John Donahue introduced himself. Member Worthington asked if he had a boat in the harbor, or if he had used the harbor. Mr. Donahue stated that he has had a boat in the harbor, and he is a member of the Pamet Harbor Yacht Club. Member Worthington then asked if he was aware that part of the harbor is run by the State and part is run by the Town? Mr. Donahue is aware of that. Member Rein asked what his short and long-term goals are for the Pamet Harbor Commission. Mr. Donahue's first item would be to learn and understand the Harbor and the Committee's work. He read through the minutes. His short-term plan would be to ensure we have adequate objectives and goals for the Committee and a clear path to work collaboratively with the stakeholders. Long-term, he thinks they need to get serious about setting up objectives. Member Reed asked him to share any ways he would improve services at Pamet Harbor by applying innovation and new technologies. Mr. Donahue gave some thoughts on improving the ramp structurally and feels some improvements could be made to the dockage. Importing internet to the Harbor and community involvement were two other suggestions.

Robert White introduced himself. Member Rein asked what interests him the most about joining the Pamet Harbor Commission. Mr. White believes people should give back to their community. He's watched the River be dredged many times and feels we're at a maximum use scenario. It's getting difficult for boaters to be able to launch in a convenient fashion and parking is a serious issue. Member Areson asked if he'd attended any of the meetings, watched them, or read the charge. Mr. White has read the charge, and also reached out to speak to a few of the Commission members. Member Reed asked if he could share some ways to improve services at the Harbor by applying innovation and new technologies. The biggest issue Mr. White sees is the one of parking and offered the suggestion of instituting an online reservation system and remote parking. In terms of moorings, it's over capacity. We are limited by the size of our facility. Another issue Mr. White feels we need to be concerned with is the water quality. There are a lot of homes abutting the Pamet estuary.

Member Reed made a motion to appoint John Donahue to the Pamet Harbor Commission to fill an unexpired three-year term which expires on June 30, 2021.

Member Rein seconded.

Member Areson stated that this was a term which would run for another four months and whoever they choose will have to reapply.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Abstained

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

So voted; 4-0-1 (Member Worthington Abstained), motion carries.

Staff Update-Health & Conservation Agent Beebe-Vaccine Update

Health/Conservation Agent Beebe shared a brief vaccine update. There are not a lot of doses, but health agents have been working regionally, and sub-regionally, to bring a vaccination clinic to the Outer Cape. The first Outer Cape clinic will be held on Friday in Eastham at Little Creek. Registration for that opened on Tuesday morning at 9am and closed 30 minutes later. As soon as vaccines are allocated, a site will be opened up at Pilgrim Spring in Truro. She is encouraging people to be patient. Addressing the online registration difficulties is a priority. The State has a software program which is not user friendly. There is talk about abandoning that system and going forward with a different system. Member Worthington is unclear and frustrated as to why the Cape (especially the Lower Cape) is not up to speed. She asked if there was more the Select Board, or the Town, could do to put pressure somewhere to get more vaccines. She also expressed frustration with the difficulty of trying to reserve a time for a vaccine. Health/Conservation Agent Beebe stated that her office is working with Wellfleet and Provincetown and also Barnstable County Health. County Health understands how unsatisfactory the rollout of the first regional clinic was. Julian Cyr was on the Health Agent Coalition call today asking exactly the same questions. A subcommittee is being formed to put together an alternative plan. Assistant Town Manager Clark wished to give an update. She stated that the Lieutenant Governor gave a briefing at 1pm today. The State emphasized that when they are considering where to allocate doses to, regionalized clinics are prioritized. She feels Truro is ahead of the game as we already are working with Provincetown, Wellfleet, Eastham, and the County.

Member Reed asked if Health/Conservation Agent Beebe was able to give a general update on Covid (for everyone, but specifically for people who are not yet qualifying for the vaccine phases).

Health/Conservation Agent Beebe said that Truro has 8 active cases and has not picked up new cases for two days. The towns around Truro are still picking up new cases. Although the rate of infection is slowing down in the State, she has not seen that locally. She stated that we have to keep ourselves educated of what's coming as far as: understanding new variants, looking for better sources of information, keeping oneself protected and sticking to the guidelines. Member Reed asked for Health/Conservation Agent Beebe to speak to mask usage after the vaccine for clarity.

Health/Conservation Agent Beebe explained that when you are vaccinated, the vaccine protects against disease. It doesn't necessarily protect against infection. What changes is that your immune system will be prepared for it. When you get your first shot, that gives you 55-60% protection. It's likely that people will still get Covid, but it's not going to be as severe. That is the protection the vaccine will give you. Until the questions about transmission are answered, we have to continue to proceed with mask wearing to protect one another. We will not know who is and is not vaccinated.

Member Areson asked, in terms of registration, have we looked at a system where people can preregister (particularly older people) and then have people call them with time slots?

Health/Conservation Agent Beebe thought that was a fine suggestion and added that it's something the Health Agents are talking about.

Chair Weinstein expressed his displeasure with the phone call that he participated in last week, which was attended by Senator Cyr. He feels there are a few things to think about: the registration system; the transparency about the availability of vaccine doses for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Barnstable County's demographics and the fact that we have the oldest, per capita, community in

Massachusetts; and the need for transparency from public officials about where we are with vaccinations.

Health/Conservation Agent Beebe learned today was that the State is getting 100,000 doses per week. Barnstable County is getting 975 doses per week. She added that Senator Cyr is trying to bring awareness to the State about how the homebound and fragile folk are not up for going anywhere. The Department of Public Health sent a memo to Sean O'Brien at the County stating that an estimated 8.9% of people residing in Barnstable County have been vaccinated, which is almost the highest in the State.

Select Board Action

Discuss, Review and Approve Support for the MA Building E-Z Stretch Code

Town Manager Tangeman informed the Board that Carol Harris, Chair of the Climate Action Committee, has asked to postpone this item due to Governor Baker's Climate Action Roadmap being delayed. That delays the implementation of the stretch code.

Further Discussion of Multi-Member Bodies Recruitment

Member Reed stated that she and Member Areson recently had a meeting with their Committee and they are going to push the handbook to the next meeting.

- Constituents have shared their thoughts about remote access to meetings moving forward after Covid-19. She hopes we get guidance from the State in the future on this possibility.
- Exit Interviews-There was an article in the paper and she's heard constituent comments about the exit interview process and it came up at their last Committee meeting. She suggested an exit interview questionnaire. Member Reed proceeded to give some sample questions. She'd like to structure an exit interview process so it's valuable and constructive. She emailed the questions to the sub-committee for their feedback and once received she'll share with staff and the Board.

Member Areson stated that it was at their sub-committee meeting that Susan Howe brought up the topic of exit interviews and she's not sure how other members of the Board feel about it. If the sub-committee comes up with a proposed format for exit interviews, then the Select Board could review it. Member Rein loves the idea of exit interview questionnaire. It would give the Select Board, and potentially the community, some insight into the workings of the Committees. She suggested that perhaps the person exiting could fill out the form on their own and submit it. Member Worthington needs to think about it before saying anything. She's not sure she's in favor of it but she would like to look at the questions. Chair Weinstein needs to digest the information. He is not for further complicating the process. He understands there is value in ascertaining why someone leaves, but on the other hand, it is important to be careful about the burden that is presented to somebody. He doesn't want to do anything that would discourage candidates. Member Reed stated the questionnaire wouldn't be mandatory. Member Worthington asked if exit interviews were even conducted for staff. Assistant Town Manager Clark stated that if employees have requested exit interviews, then they have been held, but it's not been a tried and true process. Town Manager Tangeman agrees with exit interviews but pointed out that not everyone will agree to one. Member Areson noted that the topic has generated some discussion. She would like to refine, with the sub-committee, the questionnaire. Member Areson then moved on to the topic of remote meetings. There is a benefit to doing remote meetings (not necessarily for everyone or every meeting) but it would require action by the State Legislature to do a blanket permission. Failing that, the Board could ask Town Meeting to approve an article to petition the Legislature to have a Special Act of the Legislature for Truro that would allow Truro Boards and Committees to have remote participation.

The second item Member Areson discussed was the revised application to serve. It's very similar to what we have now but has more questions on it and is developed with the intention of having it on paper and online. Member Rein supports the application. Member Worthington questioned the

portion which asks applicants if they have read minutes, reviewed the Charge for the committee they are applying to, and attended meetings. She wanted to know if it was required, and why it was on the application. Member Areson stated that she routinely asks applicants those questions and she wouldn't need to if it was answered on the questionnaire. Member Reed stated that there was unanimous support by the sub-committee for having that information as part of the consideration. Chair Weinstein thinks the information is valuable. He noted that the questions on the questionnaire regarding whether an applicant is a full-time resident and registered to vote in the Town of Truro need to be put in context. He feels it's important to state that any applicant for a regulatory Board, Committee or Commission must be a registered voter. He would like to see that information added. Further discussion was held regarding the questions on the questionnaire.

Member Areson made a motion to approve and adopt the revised Application to Serve, amending the section to add information about members of regulatory Boards and Commissions being required to be full-time registered voters in Truro and any Truro taxpayer being welcome to serve on other Boards and Commissions, and alerting applicants that the questions on attendance and charge and meeting with the Chair of the Committee are optional.

Member Reed seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Member Reed asked if the Board was okay with her going back to the sub-committee for feedback which could then be brought to the Select Board. Members agreed.

Member Worthington asked if any thought had been given to provide something similar for people interested in running for Select Board. It might be a way to encourage people to run. Member Areson thinks the handbook is something that will be very useful to people thinking of running for Select Board, Planning Board, and other Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Member Worthington asked if a section could be added into the handbook specifically about running for Select Board. Member Areson stated that it's already in there but if Member Worthington doesn't think there is enough, the sub-committee can certainly add more.

Annual Town Report-In Memoriam and Retirees

Town Manager Tangeman presented the list of retirees and deaths for the year and stated that staff is asking for approval to include this in the Annual Town Report. Discussion was held regarding listing what each person's contribution to the Town was (if they served the Town), and how that information would be gathered. Another discussion was held regarding a citizen who died who was left off the list. Member Worthington noted that the person did not die in Truro and the list was for recorded deaths in Truro. Member Areson stated that the person could be included on the "In Memoriam" page.

Review and Approve Amended Walsh Property Plan Final Draft Process Design

Town Manager Tangeman stated that the changes were up on the screen and he welcomed the Board's feedback. Member Areson thought the language looked fine and felt it reflected what the Board had decided to do at their last meeting. Member Reed agreed.

Member Rein made a motion to adopt the proposed amendments to the Community Process for the Walsh Property Plan Final Draft Process Design.

Member Reed seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Reed-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Rein-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Discussion and Possible Approval of Filming of Walsh Property Community Planning Committee

Town Manager Tangeman explained that he sought approval from the Board to film and livestream the Walsh Property Community Planning Committee meetings for the public. He added that staff reviewed the budget and this fits within the existing budget. Member Worthington thinks it's very important that the meetings be filmed. Member Rein is in favor of livestreaming the meetings. She asked if there would be a time period at the beginning of the meetings for public comment. Assistant Town Manager Clark stated that she had spoken with CBI and they would like the public comment portion of the meetings to be at the end. Chair Weinstein underscored the importance of having the meetings live-streamed.

Member Areson made a motion to approve live streaming and recording of the Walsh Property Community Planning Committee meetings.

Member Reed seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Discussion and Approval of Rental Registration Fee for 2021

Town Manager Tangeman explained that this is the annual approval of the Rental Registration fee. The current fee is \$200. At the last Town Meeting, the Town decided to move forward with including condominiums in the properties required to register. Town staff recommends that the fee stay at \$200. Chair Weinstein referred to the chart included in their packet and asked for an explanation on the decline in the number of houses registered. Member Reed remembered this coming up at a previous meeting and there was an effort to try to figure out if there were people that were renting without registering. She recalled staff looking on Airbnb and Vrbo to see if there were houses rented that were not part of our registry. Town Manager Tangeman stated that was a potential option. There are compliance software organizations that deal in this area of collection and registration. Staff will perform a cost-benefit analysis to see if the cost of the platform have a positive return on investment. Assistant Town Manager Clark believes that when this was looked at previously (in 2017 or 2018), the findings at that time were that the extra homes found by the platform would not cover the cost to enlist the company. Since the numbers have declined, it would make sense to revisit. Member Reed noted that some rentals in Truro are small, little cottages trying to fetch as much as they can and then there are bigger properties where they could be bringing in \$70,000 in a season, and asked if different sized

properties should pay different fees. Is it fair to have a blanket \$200 fee for every home in Truro when some are fetching much higher rents than others? Town Manager Tangeman thinks it would be good to have the Town's legal team review this. It's generally not a good policy to have variable fees because there are some legal issues. Member Areson thinks the fee should be kept at \$200. She'd also appreciate staff pursuing how much it would cost to sign up with a compliance software organization. In response to Member Reed's comments, the fee is supposed to be for processing beach stickers and for Town time and she doesn't think the services rendered differ regardless of how much a tenant is paying. Assistant Town Manager Clark noted that because there is now a short-term rental tax, the State has made it very clear that the Town can charge an administrative fee and which is how we classify our rental registration fee. Member Reed explained that her question comes from a constituent who came to her and stated that a flat fee wasn't fair. Member Rein asked, if a cottage colony had 14 cottages would the fee be the flat \$200, or would they have to pay \$200 per unit? Town Manager Tangeman stated it would be per unit.

Member Reed made a motion to approve the 2021 Rental Registration fee of \$200.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Consent Agenda

Member Areson had a question regarding the minutes of 8.21.2020 work session. Staff will review and amend. She also wanted to make a point with the January 11, 2021 minutes. She thinks we need to be very clear with statements made by Steven Roderick, as he wears three hats. He is on the Finance Committee, is head of the Chamber of Commerce, and is also the head of Lower Cape Ambulance. In the Budget Task Force minutes, it should be clarified when Steve Roderick speaks to something regarding the Chamber or Lower Cape Ambulance that he's speaking on behalf of those groups. Member Reed did not have anything substantive but would like to submit some rephrasing on the minutes.

Member Rein had one small item in the minutes from 8.21.2020 which will be amended.

Member Areson made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the noted amendments.

Member Reed seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Reed-Aye

Member Rein-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Select Board Reports/Comments

Member Rein continues to meet with the Climate Action Committee and wished to give them kudos to their dedication and the amount of time they spend doing research.

Member Worthington reported that the Council on Aging Board had a meeting this morning. Most of the meeting was about Covid and their frustrations. They are beginning a program called COAST which is the COAs regionally sharing programming.

Member Reed noted that we had passed the one-month anniversary of Town Manager Tangeman joining the Town and she wished to say thank you.

Member Areson stated that the Board of Health continues to go through their Regulations and are specifically working on triggers for upgrading septic systems. She added that the Cloverleaf Oversight Committee met last week, and she asked Chair Weinstein if he wished to speak about it.

Chair Weinstein stated that it was a great meeting and we are at a point where the waivers that had been granted by the ZBA have been registered with the Town Clerk's Office as of this past Friday. That's important because it sets the meter running for the 20-day appeal period.

Member Areson added that the Cloverleaf Oversight Committee is a working group that gets together about once per month. She then listed the members. Two important things came out of the meeting:

1. There will be a community forum to talk about the Cloverleaf project. People can attend and ask questions of the Developer, the Housing Authority, and Select Board members.
2. The Developer is seeking all sorts of grants for various things in hopes of reducing the Town's commitment. However, there will be a Town Commitment and that detailed request will go to the Housing Authority and then to the Select Board for approval as the Trustees of the Affordable Housing Trust. The Developer is committed to coming in with a complete list so people can see how much taxpayers will be contributing.

She added that the Developer has been negotiating with Cape Light Compact and MassSave. Cape Light Compact will pay for the mini splits in exchange for the Developer putting on solar.

Chair Weinstein said that another thing that will come before the Board will be a breakdown of what the units are (meaning how many units at Market Rate, how many are at 60%, 80% or 120% of the Area Median Income) and that will have to be finalized by the Select Board.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Tangeman put out a reminder that article submission deadline for the Warrant is February 26th, 2021. He then went over the next meeting agendas for a Work Session to be held on February 16th, 2021 and a regular Select Board meeting to be held on February 23, 2021.

Member Worthington made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Member Rein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Rein-Aye

Member Worthington-Aye

Member Areson-Aye

Member Reed-Aye

Chair Weinstein-Aye

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

Respectfully submitted,


Noelle Scoullar, Executive Assistant



Darrin Tangeman, Town Manager
Under the Authority of the Truro Select Board

Public Records material of 02/09/2021

1. Application to Serve-Board of Health
2. Application to Serve-Cultural Council
3. Applications to Serve-Cable and Internet Advisory Committee
4. Application to Serve-Commission on Disabilities
5. Applications to Serve-Pamet Harbor Commission
6. Letter from Climate Action Committee regarding Select Board support for MA Stretch Code update.
7. Draft support letter for MA Stretch Code update from Select Board.
8. Endorsement letter of support of proposed E-Z Stretch Code by Building Commissioner
9. Draft Application to Serve
10. 2019 Annual Town Report in Memoriam Page
11. 2020 Deaths
12. 2020 Retirements
13. Community Process for the Walsh Property Plan Final Draft Process
14. Chapter II Section 1 of Truro General Bylaws
15. List of Licensed Condominiums in Truro
16. Application to Serve-Tracey Rose
17. Application to Serve-Tim Silva
18. 2020 and 2021 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Forms
19. Select Board 8.21.2020; Select Board 1.11.2021; Select Board 1.12.2021 minutes

