

2025-02-03 Part Time Resident Advisory Meeting Minutes

Called to order 5:05pm

Committee Members Present:

Linda Brady, Ken Field (clerk), Stephen Duncombe (co-chair), Fred Goldsmith, Lisa Peets, Kathleen Higgins, Phineas Baxandall (co-chair)

Town SB Members Present:

Susan Areson

1. Approval of minutes from 12/6/2024

Approved unanimously

2. Public Comment

(none)

3. Update on public posting of survey responses

We will post on our Town Committee website first 120 unedited survey responses as a synopsis report with link to raw data presented in a readable format. When a chunk of additional responses come in we will update. Suggestion was made to notify people about this, and about additional opportunities to respond, include Facebook groups, transfer station, other channels.

4. Report back from issue priority subcommittees

Voice Subcommittee (Lisa reporting. Hope to have recommendations for full Committee in next Committee meeting)

1. Improve representation

Opportunities to participate: Are part-timers restricted from membership on Town Boards, Committees, Commissions, etc due to MA General Laws, or due to Truro Charter, Bylaws, Policies, Handbook? We need guidance from Town Counsel to understand what the limits are, and where they originate. We probably can't change MA General Laws, but we can attempt to change Truro restrictions. Also would be good to know what things other MA towns have done to facilitate greater participation from part-timers.

2. Improve communications with Town

Steve had meeting with Katie Riconda, Truro Communications & Mktg Coord:

Many channels of communication exist for getting info from Town to public:

Truro Talks monthly e-newsletter (2200 recipients), Facebook group

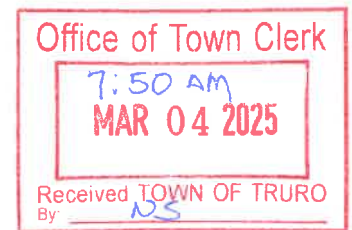
(<https://www.facebook.com/TruroTownGov>) (3100 followers), Instagram, LinkedIn, Town Website, Truro TV, Darrin's Monthly Coffee Hour First Thursday of the Month & via Zoom, Tax Bill notices, Annual Report

Many part-timers don't know about current opportunities to learn about things.

How do we let people know about existing communication opportunities.

New channels: use beach office & transfer station & tax bills to let people know about opportunities?

Finance & Revenue Subcommittee (Phineas reporting.)



1. Came up with questions for Town, i.e. number of RTEs, etc, but no responses yet
2. Different types of property tax relief that exist in Truro and elsewhere - are they open to part-time residents?
3. Residential taxes at higher rate than commercial & non-profit rates?
4. Eventually we can educate public about how RTE works
5. What should RTE rate be? Roll it back from max of 35%?
6. Susan Areson talked about process of SB increasing RTE rate to 35%. There is information about how much it would cost people with RTE at different rates. Started at 20%, now 35%.
7. Could Truro incorporate means-testing either with RTE or independent of RTE?

5. Filling PTRAC vacancy

Fred Goldsmith is now an official member!

6. Report from Susan Areson

Budget hearings in progress. Town Meeting May 3 at Truro Central School - part-timers are able to attend and speak.

7. Report from Darrin Tangeman

Not present

8. Scheduling next meeting

In next meeting, attempt to prepare recommendations for Select Board
March 3, 2025, 5-6pm

9. Adjournment

Adjourned 5:59pm.

