

## **TOWN OF TRURO**

# Office of Town Clerk MAY 16 2024 Received TOWN OF TRURO By:

#### **BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023 – 4:00 pm
BOARD OF REGISTRARS MEETING

Members Present (Quorum): Elisabeth Verde (Chair); Elizabeth Sturdy (Vice Chair), Heather Harper (Clerk)

Members Absent: Julie Cataldo (Member)

Other Participants: Lauren Goldberg (Town Counsel and Managing Attorney at KP Law)

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm, Friday, November 3, 2023, by Town Clerk Verde who opened the meeting via the Zoom videoconference platform, at the Community Center, and further announced that there would be no public comment this evening and that the meeting was being recorded.

#### **Election of Officers**

Town Clerk Verde announced that the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk were vacant and nominees would be accepted and voted upon this evening.

Member Sturdy nominated Town Clerk Verde as Chair. Member Harper seconded the motion. Voted all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Chair Verde nominated Member Sturdy as Vice Chair. Member Harper seconded the motion. Voted all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Vice Chair Sturdy nominated Member Harper as Clerk. Chair Verde seconded the motion.

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

#### <u>Presentation of Overview of Voter Registration Challenge Process</u>

Chair Verde introduced Town Counsel Goldberg who provided an update on the original 66 voter registration complaints which has resulted in several individuals removing their names from the voter rolls and several complaints have been withdrawn so there will be fewer hearings. Summons have been sent to all of the individuals who remain on the list.

Town Counsel Goldberg presented an overview of the voter registration challenge process and noted that anyone who testifies at a hearing will be sworn in under oath by the Clerk. Town Counsel Goldberg also reviewed a list of motions for the Members to consider when:

- Members do not agree with the complaint to remove an individual from the Truro voter rolls.
- Members agree with the complaint to remove an individual from the Truro voter rolls.
- The objector requests a withdrawal of the complaint to remove an individual from the Truro voter rolls.
- The resident requests to withdraw their name from the Truro voter rolls.

Town Counsel Goldberg stated that the decisions and the statement of reasons can only be appealed to a local court of jurisdiction and not to any local governing body. Chair Verde noted that there is a lot of information on the Town website to include the Residency for Voting Purposes booklet from the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Town Counsel Goldberg also provided examples of change of domicile situations which may or may not change a voter's eligibility to remain on the Truro voter rolls.

Town Counsel Goldberg described how an actual hearing would occur, the presence of the objector, the presence of the respondent, who else would be present, presentation of evidence, allowances for representation, the introduction of witnesses, the public debate among the Members as to whether the evidence met the standard to apply to the presented facts, the Members' vote (in the event of a tie, the respondent remains on the Truro voter rolls), the offering of a motion by a Member with reference to the facts which support the decision, and the vote on the motion.

Upon completion of Town Counsel Goldberg's presentation, Chair Verde announced that there are four scheduled public hearings next week at 4 pm, at the Community Center, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There will be a review of the decisions made during the meetings.

# <u>To Examine into Potential Complaints of Voter Registration Status Submitted by Monica Kraft and Jon</u> Slater

Chair Verde announced that the first complaint was received on October 18, 2023, by Monica Kraft regarding the voter registration status of Anne Greenbaum. Chair Verde read aloud the following three reasons for Ms. Kraft's challenge: 1. Ms. Greenbaum takes the Residential Tax Exemption in the City of Boston; 2. Ms. Greenbaum files personal income taxes in the City of Boston; 3. Ms. Greenbaum pays for personal property tax in Truro at the following address: 22 Gospel Path. Chair Verde noted that there was documentation submitted and that Members are not looking at the content of the complaint but to determine if the format was properly submitted. Town Counsel Goldberg opined that if the Members determined that the format met the standard the Members would have to examine the submitted documentation to determine if there was enough grounds to hold a hearing.

Chair Verde stated there was documentation provided and Members reviewed the documentation.

After the review by the Members, Chair Verde said that there were sufficient grounds and she would like to move forward with a hearing in the matter regarding Ms. Greenbaum if the other Members agreed and there were no objections. Voted by all in favor, 3-0.

Office of Town Clerk

MAY 16 2024

Chair Verde announced that the next complaint was received on October 27, 2023, at 12:45 pm, submitted by Jon Slater regarding the voter registration status of Robert Panessiti. Chair Verde read aloud the following six reasons for Mr. Slater's challenge: 1. Mr. Panessiti's personal property tax rate in Truro indicates that the property is not his primary residence; 2. Mr. Panessiti's professional corporate biography states that he resides in both South Boston, Massachusetts and Truro, Massachusetts; 3. Truro Assessor's property summary report shows that the house listed at the address of 20 Knowles Heights Road, Truro, Massachusetts is co-owned by Michael F. Hogan Living Trust and Robert M. Panessiti Living Trust with an address in Boston and not Truro; 4. The Boston Assessor's record show that both listed individuals are domiciled in Boston, Massachusetts; 5. City of Boston Assessor's record show that the single family dwelling in Boston receives a Residential Tax Exemption as granted in FY2023 and reflected in the estimated tax bill for FY2024; 6. Excise tax payments should be reviewed by the Board of Registrars to determine if excise taxes assessed on property owned or titled or operated by him are relevant.

Chair Verde stated that there was documentation provided and Members reviewed the documentation.

After the review by the Members, Chair Verde said that there was sufficient information and she would like to move forward with a hearing in the matter regarding Mr. Panessiti if the other Members agreed and there were no objections. Voted by all in favor, 3-0.

Chair Verde announced that the next complaint from Jon Slater was filed on October 27, 2023, at 12:48 pm, and challenged the voter registration status of Daniel Paisner. Chair Verde read aloud the following four reasons for the challenge: 1. Individual is paying personal property tax in Truro, an indication that Truro is not his primary residence as this tax is assessed against property owners in municipalities in which they are not primary residents; 2. Individual has an out-of-town mailing address of 16 Warwick Road, Apartment 1, Brookline, Massachusetts; 3. Individual's out-of-town mailing address listed as his residential address in the Brookline Assessor's record is also the address listed for him as a president of a domestic Limited Liability Corporation as filed with the Secretary of State's office; 4.Excise tax payments should be reviewed by the Board of Registrars to determine if excise taxes assessed on property owned or titled or operated by him or his wife, Nancy Medoff, are relevant.

Chair Verde stated that there was documentation provided and Members reviewed the documentation.

After the review by the Members, Chair Verde said that there was sufficient information and she would like to move forward with a hearing in the matter regarding Mr. Paisner if the other Members agreed and there were no objections. Voted by all in favor, 3-0.

Chair Verde announced that the last complaint was filed on October 27, 2023, at 12:50 pm by Jon Slater regarding the voter registration status of Nancy Medoff. Chair Verde read aloud the four reasons for Mr. Slater's challenge: 1. Individual is paying personal property tax in Truro, an indication that Truro is not her primary residence as this tax is assessed against property owners in municipalities in which they are not primary residents; 2. Individual has an out-of-town mailing address of 16 Warwick Road, Apartment 1, Brookline, Massachusetts which is also listed as Suite 1 on business records; 3. Individual's out-of-town residential address as listed in the Brookline Assessor's record is also the address for her as manager of a domestic Limited Liability Corporation as filed with the Secretary of State and this entity was involuntarily dissolved in 2022 well after she registered to vote in Truro; 4. Excise tax payments own Clerk

should be reviewed by the Board of Registrars to determine if excise taxes assessed on property owned or titled or operated by her or her husband, Daniel Paisner, are relevant.

Chair Verde stated that there was documentation provided and Members reviewed the documentation.

After the review by the Members, Chair Verde said that there was sufficient information and she would like to move forward with a hearing in the matter regarding Ms. Medoff if the other Members agreed and there were no objections. Voted by all in favor, 3-0.

Chair Verde said that this was all on the agenda this evening and she would like a motion to adjourn.

Clerk Harper made a motion to adjourn at 4:33 pm. Chair Verde 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**

P.O. Box 2030, Truro, MA 02666 Tel: 508-349-7004, Extension: 110 or 124 Fax: 508-349-5505

## **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

NAME OF BOARD/ COMMITTEE: **Board of Registrars** 

DATE OF MEETING: Friday, November 3, 2023

TIME OF MEETING: 4:00 pm

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** 

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

### **AGENDA TOPICS:**

1. Election of Officers

- 2. Presentation of Overview of Voter Registration Challenge Process- Attorney Lauren Goldberg, KP Law
- 3. To examine into potential complaints of voter registration status submitted by Monica Kraft and Jon Slater

