



## TOWN OF TRURO BOARD OF HEALTH

P.O. Box 2030  
Truro MA 02666-0630

### **Board of Health Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2025**

This was a hybrid meeting held in person at Truro Town Hall in the Select Board chambers and via Zoom. **Board members present:** Chair Tracey Rose, Vice Chair Brian Koll, Board Member Jason Silva, Helen Grimm, Tim Rose; **Also Present Virtually:** Alternate member John Dundas (left meeting at 5pm); **Absent:** no one; **Also Present in person:** Health Agent Emily Beebe, Assistant Health Agent Courtney Warren. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by the Chair, who described the remote meeting procedures and the process for public participation.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

### **Presentation: Proposal for Home Rule Petition for a Pesticide Reduction Bylaw.**

Laura Kelley of POCCA (Protect Our Cape Cod Aquifer), described the process Orleans used to develop a home rule petition for a fertilizer reduction Bylaw in 2022 and for pesticide reduction in 2023. She has since brought the same language to neighboring towns.

She is requesting a letter of support from the Board of Health to the Select Board for a home rule petition for reduce of Pesticide use for the Annual Town Meeting. She clarified that it is not a ban on the sale or use of pesticides, but a reduction in use. Chair Tracey Rose thanked Laura Kelley for the presentation and noted that more information was available on the Orleans town website. The Agent asked how Orleans addressed the larvicide used by Cape Cod Mosquito Control with concern about how a Bylaw would limit this important tool. She responded that there was language in the bylaw for exemptions. Chris Lucy, Truro resident and licensed pesticide applicator, expressed concern that organic alternatives were less effective and more costly. He described the standards for licensure and the heavy fines for violations. Vice Chair Brian Koll asked the Agent about the time constraints of such a support letter and expressed a desire to hear from Truro Town Council, especially regarding the National Seashore. Citizen Jack Riemer expressed his support for these efforts. **Motion:** Board member Helen Grimm moved to write a support letter to the Select Board; **Second:** Vice Chair Jason Silva; **Vote:** 4-1-0 with Brian Koll opposed; the motion carried.

### **Public Hearing: Transfer Station Fees**

The Agent presented on behalf of the DPW director, Jarrad Cabral. There would be no increase to residential permits, but there would be an increase on white goods, commercial tonnage, and commercial permitting. Board Member Tim Rose expressed concern about the impact of the increase on commercial haulers. The Agent commented that the increase is in keeping with fees in place in other towns. The recommendation was that the new fees become effective on March 1<sup>st</sup>. **Motion:** Vice Chair Brian Koll moved to approve the new transfer station fees effective March 1, 2025; **Second:** Board Member Helen Grimm; **Vote:** 4-1-0 with Board Member Tim Rose opposed; the motion carried.



**Variance Request: 14 Great Hills Rd & 3 Great Hills Ln, Dalsheimer Family Trust**

The property owners were represented by Attorney Ben Zehnder and Tarja McGrail from Tighe & Bond. The parcel has been owned by the family since 1995 and was divided into three lots with 14.8 acres being donated to the Conservation Trust. The family has never rented and now proposes to build a house on the remaining lot which is in the flood plain and the coastal dune with no buildable upland. Ben Zehnder noted that they identified an elevated area for a two-bedroom single-story home and would modify the septic system at 3 Great Hills Rd to a 7 bedroom I/A system that would serve both dwellings. Nitrogen loading calculations were provided showing a 61% decrease in N with the proposed system. Groundwater flow monitoring was done to show the direction of flow. The well would be moved out of the direction of groundwater flow. The Agent suggested discussion on each variance and the standard of review. She appreciated the groundwater flow data, but a more thorough conversation was needed and she would like to prepare a memo for the board to guide their discussions. Tarja McGrail noted that shared systems under Title 5 have requirements for maintenance, etc. Vice Chair Brian Koll requested more specific verbiage and clarity regarding the variances. The Chair asked the board members to submit any questions to the Agent prior to the next meeting. **Motion:** Chair Tracey Rose moved to continue to the March 4, 2025 meeting; **Second:** Vice Chair Brian Koll; **Vote:** 5-0-0; the motion carried.

**Bird Flu: Update & Protocols**

Vice Chair Dr. Brian Koll provided an update on avian influenza, or HPAI. There have been ~66 human cases in the US, mostly mild, with one death. The concern was that it would mutate to impact other animals including humans. He questioned whether the dead birds that are seen along Rt 6 had been hit or if they were sick. The Agent replied that MDAR and MA Division of Fish and Wildlife were testing. The safest approach was to not touch any dead bird. The Agent noted that 5 or more dead birds in an area are reportable. Dogs must be kept away from dead birds and cats should be kept indoors as the virus is communicable to them. The Agent stressed not to touch dead birds, even with gloves. Board member Helen Grimm asked about bird feeders and Brian Koll recommended washing hands and keeping cats indoors. Those who keep chickens should also take measures to protect their flock from exposure to wild birds. Further information can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/index.html>

**Minutes:** December 3, 2024 minutes; **Motion:** Vice Chair Brian Koll moved to approve the minutes as presented; **Second:** Board Member Tim Rose; **Vote:** 5-0, the motion carried.

**Report of the Chair:**

Chair Tracey Rose deferred to the Agent.

**Health Agent's Report:**

The Agent had nothing to report.

**Motion:** Board member Tim Rose moved to adjourn the meeting; **Second:** Board member Helen Grimm; **Vote:** 5-0-0, the motion carried.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Nora Bates*

