

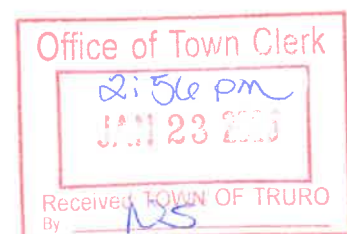
Open Space Committee Working Session  
Town of Truro  
Minutes  
Remote Meeting of 11-21-2024

Present: Shari Stahl, chair; Tom Bow; Laura English; John Marksbury; Barbara Carboni, Town Planner and Land Use Counsel; Clint Kershaw, Conservation Commission

1. There being a quorum present, Chair Stahl called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
2. Reviewed the Town History Summary drafted by Marksbury. Under Maritime Boom Years, changed first sentence to read: "Whaling and fishing defined the community." Removed Historic Districts section as it did not conform to the historic narrative but may be included in an Appendix to the report. Under Commercial Development, after "As the smallest town on Cape Cod, it is the most rural," amend the rest of the sentence to read: "although with limited space and the high market value of land there is no large-scale agricultural activity in the town with the exception of a five-acre boutique vineyard and a thriving community of small farmers." Deleted final sentence under Community Culture "This includes the Jamaican community members, who contribute to all aspects." Inserted in its place: "Throughout its history Truro has welcomed immigrant communities from the Portuguese to Jamaicans today." Cite sources for the history description in an Appendix.
3. It was suggested that in the pending survey of town land, the Committee recommend those sites suitable for community gardens.
4. Upon motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the October 24 working session meeting were approved unanimously.
5. Carboni joined the meeting to discuss the list of 30 holes that still need to be plugged in the report. Of these she had agreed to address 14 items, including conferring with colleagues on town staff. The other items were corrected in the report at the meeting. Marksbury had agreed to draft a town history and description of the Historical Society Museum. Latter is pending.
6. Carboni had a brief conversation with Emily Beebe, Board of Health department, concerning Flood Zone definitions, but was not able to complete any of the enumerated tasks assigned to her at this time owing to her job's other competing commitments.
7. Committee members voiced concern, and it was agreed that Chair Stahl will meet with the Committee liaison Sue Areson on how to resolve competing demands made on the town planner. It was noted that the report had been targeted for submission to the State in July of 2023.
8. Carboni reported two-month leave of absence for Liz Sturdy, assistant.
9. Carboni will provide the chair with appendices for our input and review by end of the year.
10. Working session ended at 3:15 p.m.

Regular Committee Meeting

1. Stahl called regular committee meeting to order.



2. Kershaw, member of the Conservation Commission, shared his survey results of town owned land, having provided the committee his excel work survey sheet.
3. He has identified some five town-owned properties suitable for affordable housing sites; there are four sites with houses without owners. It is not clear what town owned open space is permanently restricted for that purpose. Agreed that the matter should be explored by the Committee. He kindly offered his help to the committee when it begins its survey.
4. In preparation for her meeting with our Select Board liaison the chair has provided a timeline of the OSC's work on the new plan. The prior plan was produced in 2016 and expired in 2021.
5. The reason why an Open Space Plan is a state requirement was discussed. According to the Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook, an Open Space and Recreation Plan provides eligibility "to apply for Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, Land and Water Conservation Funds, and other grant programs administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services."
6. English volunteered to keep an archive of our minutes and documents on-line by setting up a Google.doc account. Select Board liaison subsequently stated the Town does not support the use of a shared file and recommends the better way to store committee documents is on the OSC page of the Town website in order to stay within the bounds of the Open Meeting Law.
7. Finding a fifth member to serve on the Committee is a priority.
8. Next meeting: **Thursday, January 23 at 1p.m.**
9. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Marksbury

