

Town of Truro

Town Manager's Weekly Report

May 8, 2020

Announcements:

- **A Special Note from the Truro Health Department:**
Please help in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by limiting movement outside of your homes beyond what is absolutely necessary to take care of essentials. If you do need to go out, we advise you to wear a mask, maintain 6 feet social distancing, and follow good hygiene practices. While there is no need for panic, we want to highlight the seriousness of the pandemic. Our community WILL benefit from your decision to take precautions.
- **The Board of Health issued an order requiring that face masks be worn in public areas of Town. Fabric face masks are now required in addition to social distancing, to protect all members of the public at all places that are allowed to be open, and all housing or commercial complexes with more than 1 unit. The order is available [here](#).**
- **Governor Baker issued an Order effective Wednesday, May 6 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. You can view the Order [here](#).**
- **Governor Baker has extended his Order closing non-essential businesses and the prohibition on gatherings of 10 people or more until May 18th. The Stay-At-Home Advisory is also extended to May 18th. All non-essential businesses as previously defined must remain closed until May 18th.**
- Travel Guidance released by Governor Baker directs that, beginning March 27, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts are instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Visitors are instructed not to travel to Massachusetts if they are displaying symptoms. Health care workers, public health workers, public safety workers, transportation workers and designated essential workers are exempt from this requirement.
- Citizens can view virtual meetings on Channel 18 in Truro and on the web on the "Truro TV Channel 18" button under "Helpful Links" on the homepage of the Town of Truro website. Click on the green "Watch" button in the upper right of the page. Please note that the meetings are held remotely, and you may only hear audio. For more information on remote meetings, please [click here](#).
- Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Truro's Annual Town Meeting is postponed to June 23, 2020. Truro's Annual Election is postponed to June 30, 2020.
- The Town of Truro posts updates about the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town website. Please [click here](#) for our COVID-19 Information Page. The COVID-19 Information Page button is now more prominent on the home page of the Town of Truro website.

This week's activities of note from the Town Manager's Office:

- Beach Parking areas and beaches remain open for all Town and CCNS beaches. Please continue to social distance and please do not litter.
- Select Board Chair Worthington and I met virtually with our counterparts on the Lower Cape, including Chatham, Brewster and Orleans to discuss shared concerns and plans related to developing a regional re-opening strategy.
- I met virtually with my counterparts on the Outer Cape and with CCNS Superintendent Carlstrom for our regular discussion on the upcoming beach season and a shared strategy for beaches in the CCNS.
- The Town Manager of Nantucket, Libby Gibson, and I participated in a conference call with MMA staff today to discuss legislative relief for FY 2020 free cash transfers. If the legislature acts, it will remove the remaining concern about postponing Town Meeting to the fall.
- Assistant Town Manager Clark, Town Account Brazil and Clerk/Treasurer/Collector Assistant Stevens met virtually with a potential vendor to explore increasing Truro's online transaction options for residents.
- The Truro Select Board voted to extend 2020 second half real estate and personal property tax payment and exemption deadlines to June 1, 2020 due to COVID-19. For more information, [click here](#).

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- Please remember: **Short-term rentals of any kind are non-essential and are not allowed until at least after May 18th (unless the rentals are for healthcare workers or other essential workers).** This is actively being enforced. Non-compliance will result in issuance of a Cease and Desist Order, non-criminal violation citations and fines. See Health Dept guidance [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings:

- Tuesday, May 12, 2020-Truro Select Board Remote Meeting @ 2:00PM

Department News:

Police Department

- Truro Police has received some recent inquiries about internet scams. With the increased availability of personal information through social media and the economic impacts of COVID-19, there has been an upward trend in these types of cases nationally. Using information that has been placed in the public domain via social media accounts, imposters often use a person's personal information to answer security questions that will allow them to either create fictitious accounts or access established accounts (i.e. the person's favorite book, first job, favorite food). Attached is a link with helpful information to protect yourself from fraud or other internet schemes. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud> . If you have any questions, or suspect that you have been the victim of fraud, please contact the department at 508-487-8730.
- Reminder – If you need an officer to respond to assist you, for your safety and the safety of our officers, please let the call taker know (1) if you or anyone in your household is experiencing any of the warning signs related to the COVID-19 virus or (2) if you or anyone in your household have been in recent contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

DPW

- In response to the circumstances related to the CORONA VIRUS/COVID-19, we have developed a response plan to maintain modified operations implemented at the Transfer Station.
- **The Transfer Station will remain closed Wednesday and Thursday until June 1, 2020.**
- **Please note: to avoid large crowds, we recommend avoiding the Transfer Station during the following peak hours of traffic: weekdays from 11AM to 2PM and weekends from 11AM to 2PM.**
- The Castle Hill Road paving project has been completed; we expect to paint new lines next week.
- As part of the East Harbor culvert repair project and in compliance with the Notice of Intent, Noons' Landing beach nourishment began this week and is scheduled to be completed next week.

Health Agent

- The novel Corona Virus has changed so much of what we do from day to day in the Health and Conservation Department. This week brought many opportunities to interact with the public about their concerns relative to a variety of things based on Covid-19. Those concerns were about who is renting in their neighborhoods, about neighbors who were not masking; one call was from a renter who booked a rental for August and was not getting a refund. We answer questions daily about what will happen on May 18. Generally, it seems that folks want to understand the Orders and the guidance directly from a public official, and this provides us with a chance to hear them and to understand their specific concern. Ultimately, these conversations establish public trust, and we will continue in our efforts to build such trust.
- This week Guidance was provided by DPH that allowed our seasonal campgrounds to let seasonal workers, and others who stay at the campgrounds for months at a time as their primary residence to occupy their trailers. The Campgrounds remain closed, but these RV's have water, electricity and septage disposal and can be self-reliant. No public areas of the Campgrounds are open- such as bathrooms/shower rooms/common rooms/game-rooms/playgrounds. Seasonal camping and Recreation Vehicle travelling are considered non-essential. This action was taken to prevent people with

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winter rentals from becoming homeless. We await written guidance from DPH on this allowance but have communicated with the Campgrounds to let these individuals have a place to live.

- After weeks of practicing their sport in non-compliance across the State and here in Truro, golfers found relief in an allowance by the Governor. As of Wednesday, it was decided that golfers may golf, in accordance with many restrictions. Golf courses remain non-essential businesses, and therefore most of the associated services found at golf courses are not open, such as the clubhouse, the pro-shop, the restaurants, golf-carts, driving ranges, etc. This came after a weekend of constant golfing by many people at Highland Links. Truro Police officers kept an eye on this activity for us and logged their observations. The manager of the facility was directly informed of this activity by the Health Agent and the Police Department. The proximity of the borders of the course and its location on federal property complicated enforcement of the closure. The golf management company that runs the Links has been provided with the list of restrictions and are required to submit a written plan to our office describing how they will operate with respect to the restrictions, and the requirements of social distancing and masking.
- This week we had a conference call with the Natural Resources team at the CCNS and Truro Beach Department, DPW Director, Fire Chief and Assistant Town Manager to discuss the upcoming beach season. We agreed on a communication strategy to keep all parties informed about developments with shorebird nesting and how closures will be communicated to the public.
- This week both the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health each met remotely under their regular schedule.

Harbor Master/Shellfish Constable

- Harbor Master Jackett finished putting in the Basin moorings and will adjust them as boats go in to allow sufficient spacing.
- Harbor Master Jackett began putting in floats for the boats ready to go in.
- A couple good weather days through the week brought more cars and people to Pamet Harbor for jogging, walking, and biking.
- A handful of boats tried their luck at fishing with mixed reports. Harbor Master Jackett was made aware of an out of State registered vehicle who launched their boat, which is not allowed, and spoke to the party involved. **Please Note: Boats launching must do it with a vehicle registered in Massachusetts.**

Recreation and Beach

- We would like to remind the public to continue to practice social distancing while visiting parks, trails, and beaches and that Governor Baker has instructed all travelers to Massachusetts to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Director Clements and Assistant Director Nunes are planning for another scavenger hunt.
- Assistant Director Nunes facilitated an online Youth Bingo on Friday, May 8, 2020.
- The next Birthday Caravan will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. For more information or to sign up, visit www.trurorec.com
- The Truro Community Center is closed but staff can still be reached by phone (508) 487-1632 or email at dclements@truro-ma.gov
- Department staff are preparing recommendations for the re-opening of the Truro Community Center.
- Recreation staff have been meeting daily online via Microsoft Teams.
- Rec. & Beach Director Clements and COA Director Briscoe are meeting weekly via Microsoft Teams.
- Director Clements attended video meeting, "Camp Preparedness 2020-Discussing the essentials for COVID-19: Quarantine Operations, and Emergency Planning for this Summer."
- Director Clements met with Conservation Agent Beebe to review ORV corridor.
- Puma Park Playground is currently closed to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.
- Department staff continue to participate in relevant webinars and online trainings.
- Director Clements attended a phone conference to discuss the shorebird monitoring program in Truro.
- All programming is suspended to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

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Suspended Activities

- Walking Group
 - Tuesdays 9:00 am
- Indoor Walking
 - Various times at the Truro Community Center
- Zumba Fitness
 - Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30 am – 9:30 am at the Truro Community Center
 - Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am at the Truro Community Center
- Community Pickleball
 - Mondays: 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Truro Community Center
 - Thursdays: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Truro Community Center
 - Fridays: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Truro Central School
 - Saturdays: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- Adult Indoor Soccer
 - Monday 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- Community Volleyball
 - Wednesday 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Truro Community Center
- The Truro Beach Office is currently closed and is tentatively scheduled to reopen on June 13, 2020.
- For inquiries about the beaches, please call (508)487-1632.
- Beach stickers are not currently required to access Truro beach parking lots. Beach stickers will be required starting June 20, 2020.
- 2019 Truro ORV stickers can be purchased online at www.trurorec.com
- Truro beach fire permits are currently suspended.
- Warning – Recent shark sightings, practice shark safety.
 - Don't swim where seals are present.
 - Don't swim too far from shore.
 - Swim in groups.
 - Avoid wearing shiny jewelry or other accessories (which look like fish scales to a shark).
 - Avoid surfing alone.
 - Avoid areas with signs of baitfish or fish feeding activity – watch for diving seabirds.
 - Be aware that sharks may be present between sandbars or near steep drop offs.

Council on Aging

- COA staff continuing to handle all incoming calls and emails.
- COA staff are calling all elders of concern, center participants, all older adults in the community, and responding to all requests for help/information.
- COA staff participating in online staff development trainings.
- Director Briscoe is coordinating with participants and instructors to offer programing online and local TV.
- COA staff continue to collaborate with Good Neighbor-Truro volunteer group for food, prescriptions, mail etc.
- Director Briscoe continuing Live Facebook Dialogue with the Director M, W, F @ 10:00am.
- Director Briscoe developing online psychoeducational support group.
- Director Briscoe continues participating in Lower Cape Outreach Council Food Pantry distribution weekly through May.
- COA staff responding to emergency food needs throughout the week.
- COA Director conferencing with COAST (Councils on Aging Serving Together), Barnstable County Human Services, Elder Services, SHINE, and CCRTA to coordinate efforts to meet the needs of Cape Cod's older adult population.
- COA staff working with Community Kitchen to provide hot meal to older adults on Sundays. More than

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320 meals were provided last week.

Library

- Library staff have a work schedule for one person at a time to be in the library.
- Library Director Ford participated in several meetings with other library directors and Mass. Board of Library Commissioners staff. There will be some guidance for libraries in the Governor's Advisory Committee report on re-opening that will be offered by May 18.
- Library staff continue to do as much from home and look forward to coming back for our patrons.

Planning

- The Planning Board conducted its first meeting via GoToMeeting this week, and it was a success. The Board intends to continue holding off on conducting public hearings virtually for the time being but may begin work sessions to continue with housing planning and other issues. The Planner also submitted the Town's application for re-designation as a Housing Choice community. The designation allows the Town to access certain grant opportunities only available to designated communities.

Assessing

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Select Board adopted local options that allows bills due to the Town with a due date of March 10, 2020 or later to be due on June 1, 2020. This includes 2nd half Real Estate Tax bills and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax bills with a due date of May 1, 2020, which are now due June 1, 2020. Also, FY20 Statutory and Residential Exemption Applications-previously due April 1, 2020 are now due on June 1, 2020. Please feel free to contact the Assessor's Office with any questions at 508.349-3004 x 116 and we will be happy to assist.