

November 12, 2024

Dear Editor,

These are public comments that I made to the Truro Select Board:

I am deeply concerned about the pressure placed on the Ad Hoc Building Committee to re-open DPW site selection to include 340 Rt 6. What is going on? This direction is a direct invalidation of Town Meeting votes.

Select Board Article 2 was based on Town Counsel advice that to change the use of 340 Route 6 to DPW required a vote of Town Meeting under Chapter 40 Sec 15A. This request failed overwhelmingly.

Town Counsel Giorgio re-affirmed this opinion as best practice at the July 9 SB meeting, adding that a Town Meeting vote “under Chapter 40 Sec 15A is binding and self-effectuating”.

SB Article 13, presented at ATM in May as a DPW funding and site article, was amended and passed with another resounding NO to using 340 Rt 6 and a YES to Town Hall Road with no conditions — No ifs, buts, depending on’s , or unless’s.

Now, several Town officials are attempting to invalidate these TM votes by using the actions and inactions of this Board, and by characterizing Truro voters as being misled and confused.

This Select Board’s contract with the DPW Owners Project Manager (OPM) and an old Select Board vote by an old Select Board — taken before the 2024 Town Meeting votes — is being used by them to re-open site selection to 340 Rt 6.

Task 1 of the contract authorizes the OPM to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each site and associated costs from the outdated and rejected 2019 W & S study. Seriously?

Task 3 authorizes the OPM to conduct an online survey asking residents what their site preference is. Seriously?

These tasks completely ignores that voters *already* filled out that “survey” and answered these questions at Town Meeting and Town Election with our overwhelming votes.

Without a new vote by this new Select Board, leadership on this issue will remain in the control of persons opposed to the voters’ decisions and who were not empowered by voters.

Additionally, your silence gives tacit approval to the Town Manager’s direct involvement in this campaign to overturn Town voters’ decisions. As he works directly for you, his actions are attributable to this Select Board.

I urge you to call for a vote soon to settle site location for the new DPW — no matter the outcome.

Truro residents deserve the new leadership we voted for.

We deserve to know where Select Board members stand on Town Meeting votes to locate the new DPW on Town Hall Road and not Route 6 — issues that residents already voted on and believe are settled in favor of Town Hall Hill.

Laurie Lee, Truro resident.