

Complete the Town Hall Hill Restoration

Dear Editor:

July 9, 2024

A few decades ago, Truro voters commissioned the restoration of the Town Hall. We saved the charm and history of the original while providing a functional building for Town staff.

That 5-acre campus is home to about 11 Town departments, including the DPW. It's about 355 feet wide and 610 feet long, with the DPW occupying the northern most 2/3 of the parcel.

Two aspects were left unaddressed by the restoration of the Town Hall building:

1. The water supply from the well at Town Hall Hill (THH) was inferior and needed to be relocated. For safety, Town staff members temporarily drink bottled water.
2. The DPW facility was aging and would require improvement. And any past spills from its use should be cleaned up as part of that process.

At long last, the pieces are now in place to complete the job of restoring THH. A new well site just to the north has been identified and can be installed. That milestone will finally restore safe drinking water to all 11 Town department personnel who work at THH.

A new DPW planning project is now funded and underway that uses a smart, hybrid approach: it reuses/repurposes some buildings and adds up-to-date, more energy-efficient structures where needed. The site is currently being assessed environmentally and a cleanup plan, as needed, should be ready in a few months. Any contaminated soil found should be able to be removed or buried and safely capped under new paved areas as part of the construction phase.

The DPW Ad Hoc Building Committee has the skills to oversee and produce a functional design schematic that will serve us well for at least 50 years. And when their schematic yields a cost estimate the voters support, we should be able to authorize construction funding at next Spring's ATM.

After years of unnecessary delay by previous Select Boards — creating millions of dollars in extra costs on Truro taxpayers — citizens finally have a solid plan and a clear path forward. Let's hope that the project to modernize our DPW proceeds efficiently without further distraction.

— Dennis O'Brien