



# Massachusetts PROVINCETOWN

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A message from Provincetown Town Manager, Robin Craver

## **Provincetown Recovery Coalition Report**

On April 22, 2020, the Provincetown Recovery Coalition convened its first meeting. The meeting was virtual to respect the social distancing guidelines that the town put in place since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and Governor Baker's advisory for residents to shelter-in-place. The information in this report is for public dissemination.

### **Introduction on the Coalition**

At a recent select board meeting, Town Manager Robin Craver introduced the idea of a stakeholder group called "Recovery Coalition" that would take six to eight weeks to help plan how the town will eventually re-open. The Provincetown Recovery Coalition is a town manager administrative committee comprised of town staff and volunteers. The goal is to make clear, informed, data-based, science-based decisions in planning the recovery from the COVID-19 virus. The coalition would focus on preparing to re-open. Then, once a time has been set on when reopening can occur, the focus would shift to implementation.

### **The Provincetown Recovery Coalition Mission Statement**

"Engage representative stakeholders of the major sectors to advise the Provincetown Town Manager in the development of plans that will facilitate the operation of town in its businesses to serve residents and visitors while maintaining the health and safety of everyone during the summer and fall of 2020."

### **Here is how members of the public can reach the Provincetown Recovery Coalition:**

The coalition members ask that the public direct all inquiries, questions, suggestions, or concerns, to [\*\*coalition@provincetown-ma.gov\*\*](mailto:coalition@provincetown-ma.gov). This email is dedicated to the work of the coalition. The emails received will be distributed to coalition committees according to topic.

### **Provincetown Recovery Coalition April 22, 2020 meeting report:**

The first meeting was predominately administrative. Guided by Town Manager Robin Craver, the members discussed their roles and expectations, the situation at hand brought on by the COVID-19

pandemic and agreed on the foundational concepts to guide their work in their committees. The PowerPoint that was used in the meeting can be found here: ([https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12893/PRC\\_0422](https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12893/PRC_0422))

The coalition plans to think outside the box to help Provincetown recover as the concept of “business as usual,” under the COVID-19 pandemic, no longer works. The coalition members are committed to propose recommendations to the Town Manager in order to navigate a phased re-opening of the town, so that Provincetown and all those who call it home, can return to some sort of daily routine without fear.

The Coalition discussed the possibility that at the end of the week Governor Baker will announce what his decision is about the timeline for shelter in place advisory which is due to expire May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Governor’s decision will clearly play a role in guiding the recommendations of the Recovery Coalition.

All the recommendations will be driven by data, much of it health and scientific, in order to ensure the safety of everyone who lives, works and owns a home here. What that looks like will depend on what the data shows, and what the federal and state government’s mandate. We are in unprecedented times and we need to be thoughtful in our recommendations and approach to balance the public safety and health of everyone with the health of our town’s economy. Health, safety and the economy all play important roles - in varying degrees and at varying times - in the overall health for Provincetown.

The coalition will figure the capacity the town has to protect people, to understand where they are and what is the town’s capacity to have certain businesses operate during June through August, then September through December 2020.

The coalition members agree that there will be a phased re-opening and that means there are various scenarios and phases to consider. Once that information is compiled, the end result will be to draft a plan for a rollout of the steps in order to assure there is a way to manage the process and evaluate the process as it is being implemented. Flexibility and adaptability are necessary skills everyone will need to continue to use during the many phases of re-opening the town.

The priority populations for the coalitions are year-round residents, homeowners and part-time residents (snowbirds), long-term renters including workers who live in Provincetown, employees who work in Provincetown, but live elsewhere and guests of all homeowners. The public health committee is mindful of the diversity of Provincetown’s population as it relates to socioeconomic, sexual orientation, and pre-existing disease status as well as country of origin ethnicity. All these health factors will be kept in mind going forward.

### **Stakeholder Working Groups**

Although the Coalition will meet regularly, the bulk of the work will be completed in the various stakeholder groups associated with the Coalition. Each working group will gather information as to how the pandemic is affecting their sector and will bring questions, ideas, best practices and recommendations specific to their stakeholders back to the coalition.

Here is a brief overview of the different committees:

### **Health and Science Committee**

- This committee will look at the science and health data from multiple sources and provide models to help look at the Town's capacity to protect the health and safety of everyone who calls Provincetown home
- The lead committee members come from the Provincetown Board of Health and Outer Cape and will reach out to their stakeholders such as local hospitals and other entities as needed
- Keep up with reemerging advisories, rules or mandates from the CDC, Massachusetts Health Department, other state and federal mandates
- It will review plans for contact tracing, review needs related to mental health issues
- The BOH will work with this committee to addressing food safety, licensing restaurants and hotels

### **Town Government Committee:**

- Going to review at community development issues; maintain services
- Review Town authority to make regulations that might impact or be different from Governor's Order; when to open buildings to public, when we do we hire staffing especially our seasonal staffing and will the town ramp up for the season and if so, when?
- What is the town going to do financially – how do we manage the budget through this phased re-opening? Grants, defer capital projects
- Right now full seasonal staff hiring is on hold: parking, police, assistant harbormasters; looking at a phased in process dependent on isolation requirements
- We have postponed town meeting – we will revisit every 30 days to see whether further postponement is needed
- Sending out state and federal grant information to the business community
- We will continue to work with the Select Board, our state legislators, state agencies, the Massachusetts Municipal Association and Outer Cape town managers to share information and find ways to work together
- The Chair of the Select Board will brief colleagues on coalition activities at public meetings and solicit feedback and input from them
- **Public Education** – this will be included under the Town Government Committee for the coalition. It is important to note that the school will be following protocols issued by the Department of Education. Governor Baker closed schools for the rest of the year. However, our school Superintendent said they are able to provide childcare for essential workers

### **Social Service Non-Profits Committee:**

- These non-profits provide services and care for the most vulnerable in our town. They will look at how can they can continue adapting to maintain services to those who need them while protecting the safety of everyone involved
- This committee will consist of non-profits in town that help to address food and housing insecurity and homelessness, helping seniors, providing fuel assistance and other social services

- This committee will also continue to keep in the forefront what isolation does to people's mental health – helping to find care and also can the arts help as a resource, keeping in touch with churches

### **Public Safety, Emergency Management & Transportation Committee**

- There will need to be new safety strategies and measures prepared in advance to handle all sort of contingencies and situations to protect those who call Provincetown home depending upon how crowded the town might be this summer
- Our transportation system serves various populations throughout the year and we will need to be mindful in this process what effect re-opening will have on our transportation systems. The committee plans to work with its transit partners: Police, Fire, Ambulance, Lower Cape Ambulance, other emergency services, the airport, the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation, Fast Ferries, Cape Air
- Create Parking Plan

### **Tourism & General Business Committee**

- This committee will focus on the questions surrounding what will business look like in a phased re-opening?
- How do we make sound decisions and how do we care for our employees?
- Review marketing strategy and remain in tune with how the town is opening and doing the right thing for the safety of our residents
- This committee will include Provincetown Tourism Director, the Provincetown Business Guild and the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce, event promoters, the Pier Corp as it relates to the fishing fleet and artist sheds, tourist excursions taking off from MacMillan Pier, banks, employee workforce, restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, retail businesses

The Provincetown Recovery Coalition, led by the town manager, is the first group of its kind on Cape Cod to pull stakeholders of major sectors together to find innovative approaches to re-open their town while protecting the health and safety of all who call it home. Throughout its tenure, the coalition will continue to gather information, seek public input to help shape recommendations for the town, with the objective to create consensus so that when the process is finished, no one will be surprised with the recommendations.

Coalition members want to remind the public that the best way to reach out to them is by sending an email to then at [Coalition@provincetown-ma.gov](mailto:Coalition@provincetown-ma.gov). If anyone needs help during the crisis please go to (<https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/1313/COVID-19-Coronavirus-INFORMATION-PAGE>) for a list of resources.