



Newsletter

Friends of the Truro Meeting House

Dedicated to the Preservation of this Historic Truro Landmark



Rachel Maddow and David Corn in Conversation – 200 Attend Sold Out Event

For those who were not present, we offer this excellent report of the event by journalist Seth Rolbein from his “A Cape Cod Voice,” August 15, 2025 <https://sethrolbein.substack.com>

Rachel Maddow, in Truro: ‘We now live in ‘an authoritarian state’

Serious security is a rarity around these parts, but on Sunday night, August 10, at the historic Truro Meeting House, local police were joined by a private firm called Beowulf, which specializes in guarding people in the



entertainment industry. Flashing cars sat at vehicle entrances while face-to-face scrutiny and a body-wand passed over everyone, pockets emptied, on the way in.

Given dire warnings spoken as the evening unfolded about a burgeoning authoritarian state, the precautions seemed in a way fitting, though more ironic: They were there to protect safety and free-speech rights to one of Donald Trump’s most vocal, famous critics: Rachel Maddow.

Come morning, Trump usurped control of Washington DC’s police force from local civilian authority, calling out the National Guard to patrol the nation’s capital. Maddow all but predicted that the night before.

Trump is on “a very predictable course,” she argued, “a cookie cutter” of strategies employed by Viktor Orban in Hungary, Vladimir Putin in Russia, and Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines. Look there, she said, to see what has and will happen here.

Actually she didn’t use the future tense all that much. Echoing comments she made on her MSNBC broadcast at the beginning of the week, co-presenter David Corn paraphrased her perspective: “We are now living under and with an authoritarian government.”

She doubled down Sunday night: “He (Trump) would do away with the American form of government



and is working as fast as possible to make it happen.”

The blueprint relies on “autocratic breakthrough,” she contended: Take control of enough of the state to “remove the possibility of a reversal,” destroy what we grew up learning to be democratic (small ‘d’) checks and balances, eliminate separations of power.

Where could opposition center? Courts, higher education, robust media, independent Congress, a legal community willing to represent “resistance,” business leaders standing up.

The Trump administration has targeted every one of those, she argued. Some are high profile, like Harvard University; some low, for example Pentagon contractors being told henceforth they will have “no contacts” with anyone who worked with Democrats.

Each move — coercing law firms to stop pro bono work, gerrymandering Congress, media defamation suits — has the same goal: “Try to rescind your ability to fight back... to make it physically and legally dangerous to oppose them.”

She reserved scorn for what she called “elite cowardice and elite moral collapse,” people with resources and power who are caving: “The political and business classes have not shown leadership.” Her ire did not extend to Americans in general. She believes Trump is deeply unpopular while riding zealous, uncritical minority support.

She sees “popular clarity, bravery, and resistance” that needs to build and coalesce, “to put spine in failing cowardly institutions.”

Yet to the question of who in the Democratic Party might galvanize and lead, she demurred. “I don’t do much on Democratic politics,” she shrugged. “I don’t understand it.”

That was surprising, echoing a previous comment to a question about why Democratic leaders do not oppose our government’s strong support for Israel’s invasion of Gaza; she would only say that her program (and most US media) “doesn’t do enough” about the issue.

Neither did she delve into the relationship between the overwhelming, accelerating consolidation of wealth in our country and the civil threat Trump embodies, in good part because she sees that threat as imminent: “I don’t know if people will have a chance to vote for more Democrats” even by the mid-terms, she mused, invoking democracy’s most dire scenario. “That needs to be the first discussion.”

Her gravest concern reinforces a comment attributed to Justice Louis Brandeis almost a century ago, when a very different president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought fears of authoritarianism by creating the New Deal:

“We must make our choice,” said Brandeis. “We may have democracy, or we may have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both.”

The fear is that the choice has been made.

Other Summer 2025 Events *Cape Harmony*



Ice Cream Making for Kids



Hyannis Sound



Celebrating Mary Oliver



When Climate Disaster Strikes: One Community’s Response



New Orleans Jazz Night at the Meeting House with Ken Field, Dave Wilson, and Ensemble



Paomet Monuments Study



Wildfire Preparedness



HISTORIANS CORNER

The Pamets from *Shebna Rich, Truro – Cape Cod, or Landmarks and Seemarks, 1883*

Comparatively little is known about the Pamets; but it becomes our history not to pass unnoticed the original inheritors of our homes. They lived in the same sunny valleys; the smoke of their wigwams [wetus] curled in the same sky; they drank from the same springs; they planted their corn, beans and pumpkins in the same fields, fished in the same waters, and were buried in the same mother earth...

Great numbers of them perished by a fearful epidemic, or an "unwanted plague," a few years before the Pilgrims came. In Plymouth and vicinity all had died, thus leaving their lands ready for the new planters. This was accepted as a divine interference. In King James' Charter, November 3, 1626, he refers to this mortality: "Also that we have been further given certainly to know, that within these late years, there hath by God's visitation reigned a wonderful plague."

The principal Cape tribes were the Cammaquids, Nausets and Pamets, or Payomets... The Payomets owned all north of the Nausets. They were a considerable tribe, and the first of whom we have a historical record. That they were greatly reduced when the Pilgrims landed, is evidenced by the deserted wigwams [wetus] and numerous graves which they found.

The first landing of Gosnold was on Cape Cod, in 1602, and must from his description have been among the Pamets. "When a young Indian with plates of copper hanging in his ears, and with a bow and arrow in his hand, came to him in a friendly manner, offered his services—." This is the first notice that I have



Wampanoag Village of Patuxet from the Plymouth Tapestry one of the tapestry panels of a large-scale needlework stitched by hand for Plymouth's 400th anniversary.

found of any writer of a Cape Indian, and it is worthy of notice that he came in a friendly manner...

The Indian name of Truro was Pamet, from the Indian tribe Pamets, sometimes Pawmits, Payomets and Pamoits. The first seems to be the accepted name, but from a study of the words, I incline to the opinion that Payomet is the more rightful and better name...

After the permanent settlement on the Cape by the English, and the disposal of their lands, the Indians dwindled rapidly away. In 1792, Rev. Mr. Damon wrote to the Massachusetts Historical Society, that there was, but one Indian family living in Truro.

I have been told by a lady now living in that town, that she has often heard her grandmother, a daughter or granddaughter of Dr. William Dyer, say, that when a girl, there were as many Indian boys and girls as white; that they used to go to school and play together; and "that sometimes the little Injuns tried to crow over them."

A Different View from the Aquinnah Wampanoag Website

For over ten thousand years the Wampanoag have inhabited the island of Noepe. When the first Europeans dropped anchor off our shores in the 1500s - just before the Pilgrims - we numbered three

thousand or more. To this day we still occupy our aboriginal land of Aquinnah and count 901 members, about 300 of whom live on the Island.

The Wampanoag Nation once included all of Southeastern Massachusetts and Eastern Rhode Island, encompassing over 67 distinct tribal communities [including the Pamets]. The Wampanoag people have undergone a very difficult history after assisting pilgrims in the early 1600s. With the European settlers came much adversity for our tribe - disease that virtually wiped out whole villages, systems of government that bore little resemblance to our tribal practices and values, missionaries intent on converting us to Christianity, and private models of land use and ownership that conflicted with our tribe's own communal practices and values. The vast majority of these tribal communities were killed in battles initiated by colonists to secure land. Today, only six visible tribal communities remain. Mashpee and Aquinnah have maintained physical and cultural presence on their ancestral homelands. Linking these tribal communities through preservation efforts is essential for survival of the many cultural arts and traditions at risk of being lost.

<https://wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov/wampanoag-history>

Friends of the Truro Meeting House, Inc.
A charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

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To make a donation or contact us:

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 11/7//2025

Annual Report

Since our founding in 2012, the Friends has raised a total of \$1,148,825 consisting of Community Preservation Act grants totaling \$910,925 (including the south façade restoration completed this fall) and \$237,900 contributed by 339 Friends members (as of September 2025).

The Treasurer’s annual summary report for 2025 and a summary for the period 2024-2026 follow:

	2024 Actual	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Summary			
<i>Begin. Checking</i>	\$ 24,829	\$ 31,127	\$ 31,145
INCOME	67,876	81,260	26,035
EXPENSE	56,578	66,490	19,899
GAIN/(LOSS)	11,298	14,771	6,136
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	(5,000)	(14,753)	-
Ending Balance	\$ 31,127	\$ 31,145	\$ 37,280
Ending Balances			
Checking	31,127	31,145	37,280
Reserve	43,998	58,791	58,841
TOTAL	\$ 75,125	\$ 89,936	\$ 96,121
Expense Type(%)			
Preservation	80.3%	72.7%	22.0%
Operations	11.9%	12.2%	43.4%
Outreach	5.5%	4.8%	16.6%
Event Expense	0.7%	8.5%	12.1%
Fees	1.6%	1.9%	6.0%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

	Balance	Increase	
Beginning balance 2024	\$63,788		
Ending actual balance 2024	\$75,125	\$11,337	
Ending projected balance 2025	\$89,936	\$14,811	
Ending budgeted balance 2026	\$96,121	\$ 6,186	
Total increase		\$32,333	
2024	\$5,000		
2025	\$4,753		
Total	\$9,753		
Ticket Sales	\$7,600		
Expenses	(\$ 2,406)		
Net	\$ 5,194		
<i>Cemetery and Driveway Restoration funded by CPA Grant</i>		<i>Driveway Run-off Mediation funded by Friends Contributions</i>	
2023	\$15,240	2024	\$ 518
2024	\$ 8,201	2025	\$ 2,636
2025	\$ 1,832	Total	\$ 3,154
Total grant	\$25,273		

