Town Will Lease House To Group Aiding Turtles

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MELBOURNE BEACH — Town officials will lease a historic home to the Sea Turtle Preservation Society for a headquarters and turtle hatchery.

Town commissioners have not decided whether they will lease the historic Ryckman House, owned by one of the town's founders and built in the 1880s, for five or 10 years. Either way, the society will pay $1 a year for it, town officials said.

The preservation society, which patrols the south beaches and gives turtle walks during nesting season, plans to begin renovating the house this weekend. The expected completion date is in May.