

---

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Truro must say 'enough'

To the editor:

Truro used to be a balanced community, economically diverse, young and old, native-born and washashores, year-rounders and seasonal vacationers, working people and retirees. Today Truro has become a highly prized location for people striving to stand out rather than to fit in. Increasingly, new property owners are creating outsized houses that dwarf the smaller homes around them. Hilltops are re-contoured to maximize area, height, and views, and hideous retaining walls are erected to keep the altered hill or dune from collapsing.

The new structures — unoccupied most of the year — dominate viewscapes, destroy native groundcover and crowd out indigenous wildlife. They have excessive outdoor lighting that pollutes the night skies, surveillance cameras and "No Trespassing" signs. These multimillion-dollar houses are compatible neither with the landscape nor the character of the community. They reflect a wealth divide and an inflated real estate market that is making Truro unaffordable for young working families and seniors on fixed incomes — a major threat to the town. Town boards need to respond.

Denied a building permit for a proposal that does not meet bylaw requirements, applicants go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Instead of granting special treatment to individual property owners, the board should use its authority to enforce the bylaws adopted by townspeople in the interest of the entire community. To grant relief

from a bylaw requirement, the board must find that the proposed project is in harmony with the purpose of the bylaw and the public good, and will not be a detriment to the community.

The Truro ZBA is considering two such appeals for properties on non-conforming, inadequate access roads. A petition from 91 South Truro residents asks the board to deny these appeals.

To maintain a livable and sustainable world for future generations we must learn to "tread lightly on the Earth." We must take measures now to assure our town's sustainability into the future. These challenges require new thinking and new habits — for all of us. First, we need to embrace the concept of "enough." When the residents of a community have enough, but not excess, the community will be healthy and sustainable.

**Joan Holt**  
Truro