

December 26, 2024

(via email to letters@capecodonline.com)

Editor, Cape Cod Times
319 Main St.
Hyannis, MA 02601.

Re: Nine Cape Cod towns designated as 'seasonal communities.' What that means (Dec 18, 2024)

Dear Editor:

This article outlines an ambitious agenda for implementation of the MA Affordable Homes Act (AHA) of 2024, reflecting the housing affordability challenges faced on Cape and statewide. However, the newly created Seasonal Communities Advisory Council, established to provide feedback on AHA policies and programs, is missing the representation of an important part of the taxpayer base and property ownership in the impacted communities – the part-time residents - and the defining element of the definition of “seasonal communities.” Failure to include these voices deprives the SCA Council of the valuable expertise and perspectives from key stakeholders in these designated communities, especially since we constitute the majority of residential property owners by definition in this designation.

As property owners, taxpayers, community volunteers, significant supporters of local businesses and economy – and as residents with substantive expertise in the areas covered by the AHA - we should be at the table and participants in this Seasonal Communities Advisory Committee.

We represent part-time residents in just some of the designated “seasonal communities” identified in your article. If we included all named communities, our ranks would be significantly increased. We also have deep roots in our designated communities, vested interests in the success of our communities, and a real stake in their future. We stand ready to provide State Housing Secretary Augustus with an identified voice to represent us, to share our expertise and perspective, and to ensure the opportunities created by the new AHA are fair and equitable for all residents, taxpayers, and property owners of designated seasonal communities.

Sincerely,

Presidents & Founders of Part-Time Resident Taxpayers’ groups in:

John Stendahl, Brewster
Thomas McNamara, Eastham
Patricia Miller, Provincetown
Patty Caya, Stockbridge
Anthony Garrett, Truro