

Does government work for the people anymore?

Dear Editor,

March 4, 2026

Does government work for the people anymore? Looking at what the Select Board in Truro is now doing, I don't think so. They are spearheading a sweeping development agenda for the Town and moving along at warp speed.

I moved to Truro for its rural beauty, absence of formal infrastructure and low taxes. I believe a developed town with an infrastructure grid is a lifestyle choice. If rural living is not for you maybe you should live elsewhere rather than flip Truro to suit you. Did you vote yes on the local comprehensive plan and zoning bylaw changes? Those articles opened the development floodgates, but it's not too late to change the course of this agenda and say no.

What started as a case for affordable housing is now becoming subsidized housing for the rich. In actuality, the affordable housing issue was just a foot in the door to what really is unfolding in Truro; the creation of a 'new' town with all the necessary infrastructure upgrades: a town center, commercial and retail zones, a septic wastewater grid, increased housing density, a large DPW facility to service this growth and so on. And let's not forget the climate action committee is proposing town-wide garbage pick-up. Next we will hear mention of mail delivery throughout Truro.

Even though local municipalities are required to follow general law, the willful enforcement we're now seeing is undemocratic: Town committees are stacked with individuals who support and advance their own agenda. Why aren't they listening to us? They see us pushing back, but they try to legislate their way around us. Scheduling Annual Town Meetings should be an exercise in accommodation to the voter. If water availability (a real and serious issue) on the Outer Cape is a concern to the community then development should be scaled back, not ramped up.

In every civilized society the government will have some control. It should. But not absolute control or the final say on local policy. A fundamental truth is that the State has no source of money other than the money which people themselves earn. There is no such thing as public money; there is only taxpayer's money.

We are still free and unencumbered in Truro. Truro is a Cape hold-out - a rural community with water independence and nominal debt. This agenda is set to reverse our status by taking control of the water and implementing a costly development program that will financially devastate the community and many will be forced to leave. Is this what we want?

Regards,
Stefanie O'Neill
Resident