

November 10, 2025

via email to editor@truronews.org

Dear Editor,

I read the letter Roberta Lema sent to Truro News in October ("Say What?") with great interest and appreciation. She captured the way I see overdevelopment and overspending being handled in Truro. It is not the way I want Truro to go. As she said, **"We need to pay attention, get ready to act, and prepare ourselves to vote to preserve the Truro we love and live in by choice ..."** If you have not read her letter, [please check it out](#).

Roberta focused on the Zoning Task Force, but the ZTF is just part of the problem. We need to look at the BIG PICTURE in Truro. We are about to be hit with huge costs for the DPW and many other "capital improvement projects" that will take the Town into extreme debt that will fall almost completely on us - the taxpayers - to pay off. We supposedly need a new water tower and a new wastewater treatment plant. Why? Because P'town wants to add 1,000 housing units and Truro supplies their water. Truro has big plans and costs, too, related to housing development at Walsh, Truro Motor Inn, North Pamet, and South Highland, and the development proposed for Walsh Overlay and the proposed North Truro Overlay Districts. All of this is driven by GROWTH ambitions with everything P'town and Truro claim they need. We, the taxpayers, need to ask ourselves if this is what we want and if we can afford it.

And there's more... There's the cost of remediating PFAS at Town Hall Hill and maybe other places. And the newest bombshell - the costs of adopting and fulfilling the watershed management plan that the Town just issued two days ago - to the tune of \$26M to over \$56M. These will take our new debt to way over \$100 million - and property owners will have to pay the tab. It is not just the costs which will increase our annual taxes by thousands for 25 years. **It is also the other real "costs" - what all this overdevelopment will do to our water, roads, economy, rural lifestyle, our community peace, and our own peace of mind.**

What is most disturbing is that the Town is NOT coordinating any of this. Each Committee acts on its own. We have plans - a local comprehensive plan, a housing production plan, new overlay districts and zoning changes, new DPW proposals - but we have NO GROWTH MASTER PLAN for Truro. Remember the snow-job we got on Walsh Overlay District? - "Water, traffic are not our problems" the Committee said. Same from the Zoning Task Force - "water and traffic are not our concerns." Roberta is right in focusing on the Zoning Task Force, though. If they are not stopped, we will not be Truro anymore. Simple sensible change in zoning that make construction or trades easier - sure. But entirely changing the density, skyline, and character of Truro?

No more Overlay Districts or big capital projects until we have a growth master plan that oversees all of this.

Truro needs to stop taking on too many big projects without taking the taxpayers into consideration. We can't manage these projects, we can't afford them, we may not need them, and we have no sense of priority. Without this kind of big picture, we cannot decide for ourselves what is in the best interests of Truro, as voters and taxpayers. We are simply manipulated into approving the next big thing, every time. I have had enough because we cannot sustain this growth in development, in budget, in taxes or in what it is doing to our beautiful Town.

Thanks for listening...

Warren Tobias, North Truro