

To the Editor:

April 29, 2026

In just the past two years, Truro has lost five community members whose work civic contributions and legacies serve as a guide to the important decisions we now are being called upon to make: Bruce Boleyn, Bill Golden, Paul Kiernan, Steve Sollog, and Stephen Williams. These men were our husbands. Altogether, they gave more than sixty years' civic contributions to Truro's Planning Board - and in Stephen's case, fifteen more as Building Commissioner. During many years we witnessed, shared - and, in some instances - even helped shoulder their long and consistent efforts to preserve and protect Truro.

Their service is much more than just a tally of years. It was a way of being - tending to this special place with patience, vigilance, and love to preserve what is irreplaceable, to protect what is vulnerable, and to plan a way forward into a future they knew would test our Town. Their legacies remain a beacon for us now, steady and clarifying, as we navigate the choices that will shape Truro's future.

They understood Truro's beauty and unique character as the Cape's only remaining *rural town* is not an accident. It is the result of choices - careful, deliberate choices - made again and again by people who believed that planning is stewardship, not bureaucracy.

They recognized the potential conflicts *long* before the rest of us did: conflicts between growth and nature, between need and capacity, between what we build and what we may lose if we build too much. And they worked to balance those competing needs to bring them into harmony - not by force, but by foresight. They were aware of what we need to remember and what we need to act upon *now*: sound zoning should exist to give us guardrails and guidelines necessary to protect and to preserve Truro while making it possible to move forward, to reduce conflicts, and to avoid mistakes before they become critical - or worse - irreversible.

As their wives, we were close-up witnesses to our husbands' hard work, devotion, and service to Truro and its citizens. We write to honor this service and to call on all voters to continue their work to protect Truro's future. It is *OUR* future - not only the future for young people or for older citizens or for new residents - it is about *OUR* future. The work they did throughout their lives was always about protecting Truro's future by planning. Now the call to do so is urgent, before we lose what cannot be rebuilt. "*Once it is gone, it is gone forever.*" This why May 16th is so important.

The pressures mount all around us:

- In Wellfleet, miles of sidewalks to nowhere are being poured at great expense - a reminder of what happens when planning *follows* construction instead of *guiding* it.
- In Provincetown, a sea of new housing rises even as one of the town's Select Board members has said the town is "built out" and has new development and renovations sharply limited because of a lack of water.
- In Truro, one official (who is running unchallenged for the Select Board) has said she is "fine" with Truro's becoming a "bedroom community of Provincetown" because "we all come from Provincetown."
- Also in Truro, another official (a committee chair) calls on us to remake historic North Truro into yet another overlay district with increased density, setbacks of only five feet - all by right - thus denying abutters' having a local right to appeal - all in a vision he imagines could be "like Main Street, Orleans."

Is *that* the Truro we want to hand to those who share it with us now and to those who will come after us? Or will we accept the mantle to protect Truro's future by planning it well and thoroughly? We say "YES" to

taking up this mantle and we urge our neighbors to take zoning and holistic planning seriously *and* to make sure it serves to protect rather than to exploit Truro.

This year, voters face decisions about the Walsh Overlay District, a Growth Management Bylaw, and the North Truro Overlay Article advanced by the Zoning Task Force. These are not separate questions. Actually, they are but *one* question: Will we protect Truro's future or simply hope for the best?

Hope is not a plan! Trust is not a safeguard! That is why *zoning* exists: as a boundary, not as a barrier; as a promise, not as a punishment.

The current Walsh Overlay District (WOD) allows large-scale "by right" development with no enforceable 160-unit cap, no required phasing, no binding water protections, no maximum building size, and no guaranteed oversight. "By right" means developers may proceed without further Town control, and abutters have no meaningful right to challenge harm unless they go to court. Even a well-meaning and well-written RFP (Request For Proposal) is not legally binding. In the end, only zoning controls would exist at Walsh, North Truro, and Truro.

Our husbands believed - as we continue to believe - **water comes first**. Without it, nothing else stands. And, according to statements at public meetings, Provincetown cannot even begin to address Truro's water needs at Walsh until at least the year 2028 because Truro lacks a feasibility plan to address water supply and wastewater.

Three citizens' petitions would restore the protections voters intended: clear limits, clear oversight, clear zoning, and a clear path to the **160-unit limit** Town voters approved. The Growth Management petition would restore the bylaw Truro had until the year 201, which required a coordinated plan so that housing, water, traffic, and infrastructure are not developed in separate silos.

We can always amend a bylaw, but we cannot restore a depleted aquifer. We cannot rebuild a lost landscape. We cannot reclaim the character of Truro once it has been stripped away.

Our husbands spent their lives protecting our Town. Now it is our turn before we could lose what they worked so hard to preserve.

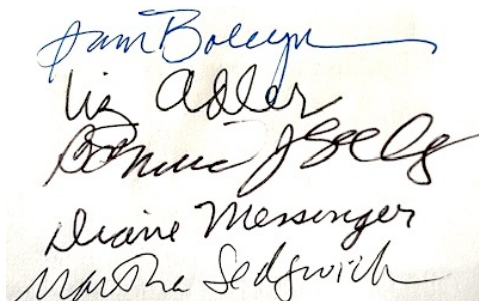
**Pause. Plan. Then Proceed. Protect Truro's Future - for ALL OF US!**

Please join your neighbors on **May 16th**. Show up. Stay. Vote. Bring others to do the same.

**Truro's future depends on all of us *now*.**

With grateful respect,

Liz Adler, Sam Boleyn, Diane Messinger, Martha Sedgwick, and Bonnie Sollog (all Truro residents)



Sam Boleyn  
Liz Adler  
Bonnie Sollog  
Diane Messinger  
Martha Sedgwick