

CAPE COD TIMES

Alternative plans for Twin Brooks property should be considered

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Guest Columnist

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In the Oct. 5 edition of the Cape Cod Times (Apartment project: Twin Brooks owner says other proposals are "non-starters") Wesley Finch, owner of the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis wisely recommends we consider "... what's in the best interest of the community?" when evaluating the apartment complex proposed for what is currently Twin Brooks Golf Course. However, his happiness with the deal he made with Lennar Multifamily Communities (LMC) and the "dollars and cents" associated with it, comes through as a true, clear and resounding clarion call.

Finch is happy! He owns the property, he has rights. He and LMC have resources others do not. They have done well and this is business for them. LMC owes it to its stockholders to succeed. Those of us, dependent on 401Ks for our retirement years, appreciate that.

But with happiness and financial success secured for both Finch and LMC, how do we then go about measuring what's in the best interest of the community? It is a dilemma as old as time. Individual rights versus those of the community.

Save Twin Brooks thinks the community could best be served by continuing public access to Twin Brooks as a recreation space; if not a golf course, then perhaps something else. The Barnstable Land Trust is proposing a compromise of sorts, some housing, some open space. Finch's disparaging remarks about the respective proposals in the Times article are not helpful in furthering this very important discussion.

As a citizen, I took it upon myself to become better informed about this issue. I've had in-person conversations with Janet Milkman, executive director of Barnstable Land Trust, and Karen Kim McGuire, president of Save Twin Brooks. I found both of them to be open, honest and sincere in their commitment to serving the community. I think you will too.

I encourage everyone to get involved in this discussion. If nothing else, get on the email lists for Save Twin Brooks and the Barnstable Land Trust (savetwinbrooks.org and blt.org). Stay informed; engage as you desire. Finch and LMC are happy with their respective positions and have in a sense, rested. Save Twin Brooks and Barnstable Land Trust think there is more to discuss.

Let's hear them out.

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