

Environmental Concerns about LMC's Emblem Hyannis at 35 Scudder Ave
CCC File#DA20065

Good evening

Saving the Twin Brooks golf course, converting all of it to public conservation land, and protecting it from development is critical.

The Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan states its goal is to focus growth away from areas that must be protected for ecological reasons, and protect those unique Cape Assets that cannot be replaced.

The proposed Emblem Hyannis development would cause irreparable harm to the local ecosystems, the water supply, wildlife, and weaken our stance against sea level rise.

We all agree that housing is critically important. However, there are many plots of land in Hyannis with defunct buildings that would be perfect for 100% affordable, workforce housing for year-round residents.

The Twin Brooks golf course is surrounded by a flood zone, bounded by two perennial streams, also known as Riverfront Area, and is perched above a salt marsh. In the face of climate change, salt marshes are incredibly important! Did you know that they sequester as much carbon as a tropical rain forest?

Tidal waters ebb and flow through an undersized culvert under Ocean Ave.

Ocean Ave. itself is listed in the Cape Cod Commission's **LOW LYING ROAD study** and rates 60/70 in its "Criticality Score" as a major collector road vulnerable to destruction from storms and sea level rise.

Save Twin Brooks members are committed to supporting the Town of Barnstable in restoring the salt marsh.

According to the Trust for Public Land, only 12% of Barnstable residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Twin Brooks is surrounded by Environmental Justice Communities. Such communities are historically underserved and suffer disproportionately from the effects of both the pandemic and rising temperatures and pollution due to climate change. Twin Brooks should become a public conservation land within walking distance to hundreds of its neighbors.

Wildlife need space to live, find food, water, and to breed. Mass Audubon's Coastal Shorebird Program protects endangered terns and piping plovers on Kalmus and Squaw Island beaches, **less than a mile from Twin Brooks.**

Emblem Hyannis adds 8.7 acres of impervious surface which will cause polluted stormwater to both leech and run into detention basins which link to ground water and the abutting creeks and salt marsh.

A portion of Twin Brooks is in the Barnstable Aquifer Protection Overlay District and Barnstable Wellhead Protection Overlay District.

This is reason enough not to build a massive development at Twin Brooks! The few acres of “buildable” upland here must be conserved to allow room for rising sea levels, increased rain and flood storage.

Please do not approve Emblem Hyannis. Hold out for the things the Regional Policy Plan recommends: **preservation of natural areas, prevention of further water pollution and coastal resiliency in the face of climate change.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak!

Please promote Twin Books’ role in teaching sustainability. Add 40 acres of restored, public greenspace to Cape Cod residents and visitors!

Bettina Abe