

Letter to the Editor
Cape Cod Times
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The Cape Cod Commission subcommittee that reviewed the giant apartment complex proposed for the Twin Brooks golf course concluded the project is inconsistent with Commission environmental policies. The deviations supposedly are “necessary” to provide housing opportunities for “a significant segment of the population.” But only 41 units must have “affordable” rates—the rest are at market rates people can’t afford.

Despite “tweaks,” the developer’s agreement has glaring omissions. The developer can abandon the project any time with no liability, even after it has clear-cut hundreds of trees and dug up the turf. Public commenters proposed requiring a bond to restore the site; this wasn’t added. Solar panels are not required. Restrictions on subletting expire 12 years after the agreement takes effect. Although the developer forgoes tax deductions or credits due to restricting land where environmental laws mostly forbid building anyway, it can seek a reduction in its property taxes. Staff-recommended renderings showing the project would not be visible from nearby roads were never obtained.

The same day as your Twin Brooks article, you reported the Town Council authorized housing at the Cape Cod Mall. Let’s use already paved-over land to solve housing needs. It’s not “necessary” to destroy open greenspace in the midst of endangered watersheds that empty into Nantucket Sound.

John Ale