

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TRURO CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE CLOVERLEAF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

Submitted to the Truro Zoning Board of Appeals and the Truro Select Board
July 27, 2020

“Decisions made today determine risk exposure for current and future generations and will either broaden or limit options to reduce the negative consequences of climate change. “

—National Climate Assessment Report 2018 (US Government)
<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/1/>

The Commonwealth has set decarbonization goals for Massachusetts, and some of these targets have been written into law. Previously, the Commonwealth set the goal line at year 2050 but heightened concerns about climate change have moved the interim targets to 2030. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the legislative process so even though initiatives to accelerate our objectives have been announced, they are not yet expressed in regulatory terms.

Actions we take now will position Truro to contribute to, or detract from, our ability to reach goals set for 2030 and beyond. Even though many of us will not be around to know if we reached those 2050 goals, it is our responsibility as custodians of this wonderful town to protect Truro’s future, and those who will live here. The Cloverleaf development will play a pivotal role in shaping what Truro is for generations to come.

The Climate Action Committee studied the Energy Committee's report and its recommendations to the ZBA. The CAC voted unanimously to support the Energy Committee’s recommendations.

We believe the Energy Committee’s recommendations should be added to the conditions. They represent reasonable, achievable actions, that if adopted will benefit Cloverleaf’s tenants, the Town of Truro and the developer. This assumes that the newly enacted incentives and Alternative Energy Certificates, or substantially similar ones, will be in effect when the developer is eligible to apply for them.

The CAC's work has identified several concerns and recommendations regarding projects such as this but is not prepared to offer them at this time. We will comment in the future to the appropriate Town staff and committees.

As a footnote, we are pleased that Community Housing Resources has adopted two of our recommendations. Their sustainability report mentions native grasses/plantings and using deciduous trees to shade buildings in the summer. These two items are included in all comprehensive energy efficiency building systems.