

January 1, 2021

Martha's Vineyard Commission  
[morrison@mvcommission.org](mailto:morrison@mvcommission.org)  
[elvin@mvcommission.org](mailto:elvin@mvcommission.org)

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Alexander Neuhoff. I am writing to you today on behalf of the present and future generations of my family. We are the owners of the "Tower House" at 14 Starbuck Neck Road and the now vacant adjoining parcel at 23 Thayer Street.

It was more than sixty years ago when my parents purchased our summer home in Edgartown. What a great place to escape the stifling summer heat of Washington DC. Since then, four generations of Neuhoff family members have been privileged enough to experience wonderful Edgartown and to enjoy our quiet peaceful neighborhood.

In the past, we have been steadfastly supportive of efforts to improve historic North Water Street and to conserve the Lighthouse Pond. We also consider ourselves to be friends with and have happily patronized the Harbor View Hotel since the early 1960's. Lately however, we have grown concerned with the Hotel's aggressive plans for expansion.

The construction of a more than 2500 square foot public outdoor restaurant and bar is clearly detrimental to the quality of life of the neighbors. I have searched and am unable to find any permit granted to the hotel to undertake such an expansion. We are genuinely concerned about the increase in traffic and noise that is always present at such a venue, especially late at night.

Our family is also worried about the impact of a large 4,600 square foot spa that the hotel is proposing to open to the public. This seems overly commercial for the neighborhood and will likely add even more traffic and parking congestion. When added to the new restaurant and bar, well, let us just say that we fear that this will be a tipping point beginning the decline of our cherished quiet and peaceful slice of Edgartown.

On your website, you state that the Commission has and will continue to be an instrument to protect the Vineyard's "sense of place" and "quality of life". You celebrate that the island has "avoided inappropriate development typical of the mainland". We truly hope that you mean those words and will act to preserve our neighborhood. My future grandchildren are counting on you.

Sincerely,



Alexander Neuhoff