

Dear Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission,

My name is Ann Dickinson, of 15 Starbuck Neck (the house with the big flag pole). I represent the third generation (of five) to enjoy the neighborhood surrounding the Harborview Hotel. My grandmother bought the house around 1950, while my parents rented a house on Fuller Street. My parents then lived in the house for roughly half of each year from the mid-1950s until my mother's passing in 2010. I have spent nearly all my summers on Starbuck Neck since 1947. My children and grandson love the house and neighborhood very much. I would like to add that our family's attitude toward the house and neighborhood for all these years has been one of care and stewardship, care and respect which extend beyond the neighborhood to the town to the entire island. Indeed, my parents were instrumental in the formation of the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust, now known as Vineyard Trust.

In all our years on Starbuck Neck our family lived in amity with the Harborview Hotel, as did the other neighbors. There was a symbiosis and a social contract among us all. In her last years my grandmother occupied rooms at the Harborview in the summer; in fact she passed away *at* the Harborview in 1973.

Members of the Commission, as Vineyarders you know very well how sound carries on the water. If someone sneezes at the Harborview, everyone on Starbuck Neck can hear it. The current plans and the incremental un-permitted encroachments by the Harborview are upsetting and will increasingly upset the sheer beauty of a summer's night with noise pollution, light pollution and increased traffic. A full-service, separate, and huge spa will negatively impact not only the surrounding neighborhood but will hurt similar businesses in the center of town. The unpermitted expansion of the outdoor bar will present a serious nuisance in the neighborhood. The addition of jet skis is obnoxiously noisy and presents a real danger, both to those drive them, to boaters and also to bathers in the vicinity of the lighthouse and Fuller Street Beach. There is a limit to what we can all bear.

To those who accuse the neighbors of being a NIMBY group I say, Yes, we knew about the Harborview Hotel when we acquired our properties. But the Harborview of yore was an entirely different proposition; that Harborview respected its neighbors and the town permitting process. We neighbors pay our taxes willingly, although largely without representation, and all we ask in return is fair treatment that will be good for all of us. I don't envy the Commission; I know you struggle with difficult decisions all the time; I ask for your careful consideration of the questions before you. The future of our neighborhood is very much in your hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann B. Dickinson
15 Starbuck Neck