

**From:** [mcglade@comcast.net](mailto:mcglade@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Alex Elvin](#); [Lucy Morrison](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to MV Commission- Stillpoint  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 12:45:05 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to not only express my support for the Stillpoint project, but to give you some insight into my history with Thomas Bena.

My relationship with Thomas began as my husband and I were audience members. We were thoroughly impressed, captivated and intrigued by the wide range of films, guests and community spirit brought to the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival. This led us to becoming supporters, patrons and then friends. In addition, I proudly served on the Board for a number of years, and I currently serve on the Advisory Board.

Having been engaged with MVFF for over two decades, I have watched it grow and evolve - all while serving the community as the primary goal. I recognize Thomas's strength in creating, developing and cultivating concepts while successfully utilizing unusual and unconventional ideas and business plans.

I would be remiss if I did not mention, quite notably, MVFF's ability to remain strong while pivoting through the COVID period. Many organizations unfortunately suffered; MVFF remained financially solvent through it all. Leadership here was the key, and Thomas certainly deserves much of the credit.

I have great respect for his personal and professional willingness to grow and learn, and in return, teach and not shy away from difficult conversations and subjects. I had the pleasure and honor of working with Thomas on his film, *One Big Home*. I collaborated with him as he developed the idea, and labored over the project for many years. I know him to be a thoughtful, dedicated and committed man who listens well and greatly respects other viewpoints and ideas. Thomas is an exemplary collaborator, and I have seen him brainstorm ideas and work thoughtfully with others while he tackles every step to completion.

There are not many people who have a vision AND are willing AND able to

create something so impactful. He puts himself out there, and he delivers and exceeds many people's expectations. We are fortunate to have Thomas Bena in the community - one he loves and works every day to make better! Thomas is someone who also has the utmost respect for nature and our fragile environment. I fully support him and a team whose mission and dedication is to serve the community.

Would you please be so kind as to acknowledge receipt of this email.

Most sincerely,  
Arleen McGlade