

Jim Shepherd

Tue 11/1/2022 8:56 PM

To the MVC:

I am writing in support of the proposed improvements to the Safe Harbor Marina on Lagoon Pond Road in Vineyard Haven. I am a very active boater in the Lagoon and I have been for more than 25 years. I keep my power boat at Safe Harbor but I also regularly swim, sail, row, and paddle in all parts of the Lagoon. I am out on the water at least 100 days per year and I am very familiar with the water and shore conditions and the nature of the boating activity.

Safe Harbor Marine is the most conscientious operator that has ever been at that location going all the way back to Erford Burt. They are stringent about pollution control and environmental safety and they are certainly more careful, better trained, and better equipped than any of the private dock owners and mooring owners that make up the majority of the boats in the Lagoon.

With regard to traffic volume in the entire Lagoon and in the West Arm I believe it has actually diminished as the mix of boaters has shifted from working fisherman to occasional weekend cruisers. The Safe Harbor customers are also much more diligent about observing channel limits and no wake zones. In my experience most of the boats roaring up the Lagoon are people who live there.

I heartily support Safe Harbor's proposal to create more rack storage which I view as an effective way to add much needed boat storage and boating access to a town (and Island) that has failed to deal with this issue for more than 20 years. As usual the people opposing this progress are the ones who already have their private beaches and docks and moorings at the end of their lawns. The Lagoon belongs to the public and we need to provide access as well as protection.

Jim Shepherd
10 Twin Pines Way
Vineyard Haven