

Stever Aubrey

Mon 10/17/2022 9:05 AM

Dear Ms Morrison (and members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission),

I am writing regarding the Safe Harbor, Vineyard Haven Marina project under review by the Martha's Vineyard Commission (258 M2).

I have reviewed the documentation on your web-site regarding the proposal from Safe Harbor and I am in favor of this project.

Too often, opponents of projects like this influence others with their negative perceptions of a proposal. I encourage those opponents to look at the facts presented by Safe Harbor and their General Manager, Chris Scott.

Rather than classifying this project as an "expansion plan" that will be detrimental to the environment, it should be classified as a "property improvement project" to ensure their environmental sustainability.

This project will enhance Safe Harbors presence in the Lagoon and should be considered a positive move towards the environs around the marina.

Arguably, Safe Harbor is the most environmentally compliant and conscientious boat yard on the island. Not only do they have excellent corporate and local management, they have the resources to do things that will enhance the marina that have been neglected for a long time. They are exceeding all the requirements outlined by the regulatory agencies they operate under.

Their current initiatives such as creating a better indoor workspace with proper safe containment of hazardous materials, installing a new, safer fuel tank, and building a better rack system to store boats out of the water are all positive improvements that are already in place. The proposed improvements under review by the MVC only enhances their commitment to create a more environmentally safe marina, a standard representing the best on the island.

- Racked boats provide a multitude of benefits to the environment over wet stored boats. Removing 10 boats out of the water is a 20% reduction their water storage capacity.
- Their data shows that only 10 boats a day will be used from the racks in the busiest times of summer
- The improvements to the marina also include a much more comprehensive drainage plan to protect the waterways.
- The project will also greatly improve their coastal presence by removing dilapidated buildings and adding vegetation.

It should be highlighted that Safe Harbor in Vineyard Haven is becoming a Certified Clean and Resilient Marina and will be certified as one of the first Clean Marina in all of Massachusetts.

As an island resident and boat owner, I am grateful for the improvements Safe Harbor has made and I am in favor for their proposed further improvements.

Most sincerely,

Stever Aubrey  
West Tisbury, MA