

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter to state our unqualified support for the marina being proposed by Martha's Vineyard Shipyard for the Lagoon. We are long-time Vineyard Haven residents and lifetime boaters. We have a 32-foot power boat that we keep in a slip at Prime Marina. We pass by the area where the marina is proposed several times per week and sometimes several times per day. We are very familiar with the activity (boating, fishing, shell fishing, etc.) that occurs in that part of the Lagoon and we are convinced that a new marina would not have any negative impacts.

We have been fortunate enough to have a slip in the Lagoon for many years and it has made us very aware of how much it improves our access and increases our usage of the boat. Like many people who live on Martha's Vineyard we hear constantly from friends that they would love to have a boat but there is nowhere to keep one. The waiting lists for moorings, and the few slips that exist, can stretch out for years. The result is that many people simply give up on the idea of owning a boat. We live on an island and it just seems wrong that so many people would have difficulty gaining access to the water. We have cruised the New England coast from Maine to Connecticut and it is hard to think of a waterfront community with fewer slips and moorings than Vineyard Haven!

We have looked at the design and plans for the proposed marina and we believe it would be a tremendous asset to the town, and the Island in general. We have known Martha's Vineyard Shipyard and the Hale family for many years and we can't imagine a better and more responsible organization to undertake this project. They are born and raised in Vineyard Haven and totally committed to the welfare of this town. They have years of experience building and maintaining waterfront structures, they are intimately familiar with the Beach Road area, and they have proven themselves to be incredibly responsible stewards of the environment.

In summary, we strongly encourage the town, and other permitting agencies, to help move this project forward. It is an amenity that will benefit Vineyard Haven residents and hopefully encourage additional improvements along Beach Road. There is no question that the town needs better boating access and this proposal accomplishes that with no financial impact to the taxpayers. We believe that the town is very fortunate to have a highly respected local company step forward and offer to make this investment and we encourage you to support it in any way you can.

Sincerely

Anne Besse-Shepherd & Jim Shepherd  
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Vineyard Haven