



November 6, 2019

Mr. Adam Turner, Executive Director
Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, Ma. 02557

Subject: Martha's Vineyard Shipyard DRI Review

Dear Adam,

This requests the Commission rule favorably on the Hale family's plan for an upgrade and modest expansion of the shipyard facility. I have reviewed the plan and would like to offer the following observations for your consideration:

1. This site has historically been a working shipyard for the island's water-based economy since the mid-1800's. It has been owned and operated by the Hale family for three generations. These plans are required to ensure the shipyard's continued operation and viability for the next three generations. The business provides vital, year-round employment for the island's youth. I know for a fact that the Hale's have invested in and will keep young staff gainfully employed and working year-round as much as possible to avoid running the business with a seasonal staffing model.
2. This land use is consistent with Vineyard Haven's working waterfront zoning district and regulations. We have seen how economic pressures force historic land uses and businesses to close or change in response to the evolving, high demands and economic lures of the island's coastal beauty and tourist economy.
3. The Shipyard has always been on the cutting edge of environmental responsibility. Since the 1850's this land use has not impaired the water quality or shell fishing habitats in the harbor or Lagoon Pond—as evidenced by the shell fish survey performed for the area. As testament to this environmental stewardship, the shipyard installed a state-of-the-art closed pressure washing system to capture 100 % of the pressure washing waste water and keep it from running into the harbor. This was not required.
4. The proposed dredging plan quite possibly could improve the water quality of this back cove and section of Lagoon Pond by improving water circulation from Vineyard Sound. We have evidence that the Edgartown Great Pond shell fishing habitat and Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries shell fishing classification improved dramatically over the past 5-7 years by dredging water exchange channels within the pond for better

water circulation with the ocean during the artificial pond openings. Lagoon Pond is permanently open to the sound and tidal changes.

5. The reduced land-based footprint of the structures on the Lagoon Pond property will not only provide more space for habitat restoration, it will enable this business to significantly upgrade the system to capture and channel storm water runoff from the paved roadway into Lagoon Pond. Have the businesses that expanded their footprints in this area over the past five years done the same? This storm water management will also improve the water quality and habitat of the pond.
6. The additional boat slips will be for small boat seasonal use by island residents. As reference, I have had a town mooring in Lake Tashmoo for over 12 years. I was on the waiting list for over eight years which demonstrates the need for seasonal in-water recreational boat space.
7. The other two island marinas—one on Lagoon Pond and the other in Edgartown – have changed hands several times over the past ten years which demonstrates the thin profit margins available to operating boat yards. The other Lagoon Pond marina has more in-water slips than are proposed by the Shipyard. It is only a matter of time for these other land uses and marina business models to change for purely economic reasons. When this happens there will be that many fewer boat slips available for islander use.
8. This land use is as important to preserving the working water front history and character of the island as the historic structures that also fall under the MVC's jurisdiction—as evidenced by the Mill House demolition in Tisbury earlier this year. The island depends upon shipping for its livelihood. The Shipyard is the only business on the island that can offer the services it provides. Please preserve this for the future enjoyment of the island and general public.

In closing I am quite sure the Hale family will be able to meet your requirements as this project clearly has more benefits than detriments to the historic working water front of Vineyard Haven and the island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Hodgkinson". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chuck Hodgkinson
171 Oak Lane; West Tisbury