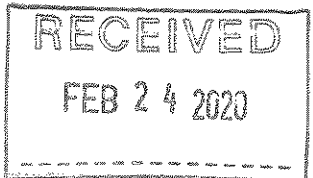


February 2020



RE: M.V. Shipyard Proposal

To Whom and All it may concern;

My name is Gretsch Godek and I'm a fisherwoman. I have purchased and held both family and commercial shellfishing permits in the Town of Tisbury for 25 years (2020, this year being 26). I have fished up and down Lagoon Pond and the West Arm since 1994, year-round. I've introduced my son to bay scalloping and quahogging when he was very young and he now owns and operates a boat in town too. Shellfishing has been a major source of income for me throughout the years. I pay my bills and taxes, put food on the table and keep a roof over my head. I managed to help educate my son at North Eastern Univ., College of Criminal Justice. It was costly. I'm also contributing to the Town of Tisbury by purchasing family and commercial licenses (which increase yearly), to shellfish. It is hard work, but it's very rewarding to be self-employed. Shellfishing comes with the awesome responsibility of taking care of one of the Islands most precious and natural resources, the very beautiful and peaceful body of water, Lagoon Pond and the West Arm. While on the Lagoon, whether in waders/or not, digging for quahogs or on my boat searching for bay scallops, I witness marine life that most people do not have a first-hand chance at. I consider myself very lucky.

The entire Lagoon Pond and the West Arm is full of many, many different types of fish and shellfish and their seed and offspring. It is a rich environment for the spawning of a variety of sea creatures because of the favorable conditions including, but not limited to the depth, grasses, sunshine, water temperature, sand, mud, food sources, water flow and especially water quality. But, there are unseen problems not so obvious too. Underwater problems which have to be constantly monitored by all of us who are interested and involved. Very subtle changes can easily tip the scales and create adverse effects to this ever so fragile, extremely wonderful environment. We, the fishermen/women along with the Shellfish Department have all worked very hard to eradicate invasive species of crabs and starfishes and certain types of algae, and we continue the ongoing battle. And, there is a countless kaleidoscope of daily toxic assaults the pond is dealt with. There are shorebirds, ducks and geese and their droppings, rainwater runoff, which carries all sorts of fuel from vehicles on the roadways bordering the pond, nitrogen loading from chemicals and fertilizers on neighboring lawns, human waste and plastic bags, flotsam from motor boats, beer cans and bottles and sunglasses, cell phones, flip flops and bits and pieces of trash of everything you can think of. And, we the fishermen/women clean the bottom of the pond, piece by piece. It has taken years to do this dirty work and the pond is finally coming around, finally to be clean and productive.

During the 2019 season/year, March-December, I worked the Pond. Beginning in March until October, I have personally harvested 39,810 quahogs, bull raking. In November and December, I was busy bay scalloping and pulled in 126 bushels in all areas of the Lagoon and West Arm. It was a fairly good season for scalloping in 2019, at last, but it could be so much better too! From "Winds Up" to behind Packer's dock, along the West Arm south directly behind M.V. Shipyard, all around the sand bar that juts out at low tide behind Granite Electric and continuing toward Ferry Boat Island, then across to the flats at the bottom of Skiff Ave., I dug for clams. And now, the last particular area at the bottom of Skiff. that I speak of is closed to shellfishing indefinitely, for reasons still under investigation. More recently another closure has taken place in which practically all of the West Arm is affected until further testing by the Division of Marine Fisheries. This has an impact on my livelihood. During the summer months when littlenecks, cherrystones and chowders are in high demand, I had been raking behind the M.V. Shipyard and I pulled up a rake full of dark, grey, silky mud and at least 100 small, cherry sized quahogs. Babies, which became evident as I rinsed my rake free of the thick mud that they grow so well in. I kept digging and found many pockets of these juveniles all day long. Over time these beauties will eventually die off as the water is repeatedly contaminated from an imposing marina right smack in the middle of it all. I am a relevant witness to the sea life below the surface because I am out on the Pond doing the work. And so, there remain thousands of quahogs to be harvested throughout the Lagoon and the West Arm yearly, as I can clearly testify. While fishing, I have transported bushels of seed scallops that I've dredged up from all the flats behind the Shipyard, where they grow and really thrive, to other compatible areas of the West Arm. The seed scallops were so abundant early in the season they might likely starve themselves being so piled up and concentrated in this area. I've had to shuffle my feet while quahogging in the spring so I

wouldn't crush the scallop shells. This area is PRIME for beautiful, tiny quahogs and seed scallops. It is the perfect sandy bottom, depth and temperature for shellfish. They are in their best element here.

This is exactly where the Hales' would like to dredge, erect pilings, place docks and a marina and upset this prime habitat to install some 48 (double ppl. with family, friends, etc) boats/dockage/slips. (48+vehicle parking lot) etc..."If you build it, they will come"! The Hales' will profit, the Town will enjoy revenue, perhaps? and my livelihood will diminish, year after year. Future generations of fishermen/women will only tell and hear stories of what once was. I am only one of a dozen and more commercial fishermen/women who harvest annually Lagoon Pond and the West Arm. There are also hundreds of family license holders and elders too who will be affected by closures due to pollutants, toxins and unsafe water quality. WHO will compensate us all when the Pond is eventually completely off limits to shellfishing? We eat, live, survive, breathe and depend of this unique place on Martha's Vineyard. She sustains us and nourishes us and our souls too. She deserves the respect that we as humans have the capacity to fathom what it is we are getting into here. It is our duty and obligation to make the RIGHT choice. This belongs to ALL OF US, not just a few.

With all due respect to the Hale family business and it's very long history, a feat in itself, amazing! I adamantly oppose the building of another marina in the West Arm of Lagoon Pond. The Hales' investment and confidence in Tisbury and the Islands' future does not adequately address the true nature of their intent and the health of Lagoon Pond. Their vision in the Maritime community is geared more toward luxury and INCREASED BUSINESS=MONEY, lock step with the Town's approval. The fact that Comcast is purported to be involved in this project makes me uneasy because with POWER comes MONEY, and with MONEY comes INFLUENCE. This is not environmentally responsible. This DOES NOT "Return the pond to health", as the draft from the selectmen's office states. Those are words, not deeds. It is apparent as we study marinas, the opposite is true. And, what is the priority of needs (i.e. economic health/tax revenue) for the Town of Tisbury to have a marina in this vulnerable location? This is off course. One more marina is just another assault on this body of water that has taken years to come back alive, at least 1/2 way! Two acres with possible closures to shellfishing, one month, some months, seasonally, how much of an area and when? Two acres is only the footprint of the proposed marina, what about the channel? What is not being addressed is the total square acreage that will eventually be affecting the water column. It will be vast and outrageous. If you take a look at Google Maps and look directly down at M.V. Shipyard and the dock space behind the yard, you can see 4 boats. It's easy for anyone looking at this picture to imagine 44 more boats, it's a massive area. It's really almost impossible to comprehend the fragile Lagoon supporting it. Marine biologists, aquaculturists, wardens, fishermen/women and many hands- on deck have worked together in this location, to repair and restore the damage done and neglect of prior years, ultimately to come to this? We already have Prime Marina at the end of the West Arm and we know it's closed to fishing...Why? Because it is a dead zone. Nothing survives under the water at a marina. Nothing. I know the bottom of Lagoon Pond like the back of my hand, the underwater terrain, the sea life, and what thrives here and not over there. I know where the slopes and channels are, and where the water ebbs and flows best. I know the clams love this particular spot right here and the scallops would rather a few feet over to the left or right. it's a fickle environment. Even if and when the Hales' donate shellfish seed to the Town, it won't matter if a marina is built behind the Shipyard, because over time all of the West Arm will be affected from pollutants of one type or another.

It would be wonderful to improve the M.V. Shipyard and restructure and renovate the buildings, parking and travel patterns. Problems already exist on this stretch of Beach Road, a concern for all. Climate change is here and the Shipyard is at sea level now. The natural effect of storm water runoff, greater storms and unpredictable weather patterns in the future are upon us. Who is to say that the Hales' with all their confidence in the "Meetings of the Minds" (i.e. all who might benefit from the building of a marina), that things will turn out on the right side, environmentally? They can talk all they want about copper bottom paint, ways to facilitate cleaning boats, state of the art equipment, capturing runoff from a 50-space parking lot, having no overnighters on boats and more. What about human error, accidents? It WILL all eventually leach into the Lagoon and pollute, and nature will have the final say so.

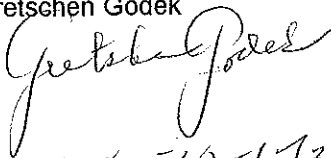
It was mentioned at the selectmen's meeting in January 2020 about the three feet or so of mud at the SW end of the Lagoon, the cleaning up of the Pond, addressing the water quality and the selectmen talking about it all, but not having addressed these problems in the past, specifically two years ago. Apparently, these were back burner issues at the time. Perhaps the selectmen bringing it to the forefront is now a conciliatory effort to reach out. But, why now and not then? Besides, there is little to be done about helping nature in specific areas (Prime Marina) anyway. As I've said before, it is a marina, it is a dead zone. The marina prevails over Mother Nature.

All of the proposals addressing the Town's concerns about mitigating flood hazards, improving existing environmental conditions and concerns about water quality, should always and constantly be principal objectives by the Hales' Shipyard and anyone who is doing business on the Tisbury waterfront. Being stewards of the waterfront, this should be without question.

(This letter at times may sound redundant but), all of the fishermen/women, wardens, marine biologists, all of us in the industry in Tisbury and many around the Island that I have spoken to about this proposal, cannot state explicitly or pressing enough about how concerned or upset we are. We do not want another Marina in the Lagoon or anywhere in the West Arm. This body of water is our livelihood, our bread and butter, blood, sweat and tears and something to pass on to our future generations, with gratitude and pride. We have invested our hard work, our time, money, attention, care and our lives also! We too deserve respect and the consideration we feel we have not been granted. WE FISHERMEN/WOMEN ARE THE STEWARDS of the WEST ARM and LAGOON POND! It also belongs to us and we have rights too!

To All whom are really seriously concerned...PAY CLOSE ATTENTION!! THIS IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL BIG DEAL!! Before the wrong choice is made for us and we ruin one more PLACE OF BEAUTY for the sake of a few, STOP and THINK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO LOSE! The Pond is in the hands of a few who are elected to do the right thing for all of us.

Invested and Concerned Fisherwoman,
Gretschén Godek



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