

November 21, 2019

Martha's Vineyard Commission,

My name is Jeffrey LaBell and I am writing in support of the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard Marina project proposal for Lagoon Pond.

I have been a boater on Vineyard waters since 1987 and I am a lifelong Island resident employed by the town of Oak Bluffs. I own property which has deeded Lagoon Pond access. Additionally, I serve on the Oak Bluffs Harbor Advisory Committee.

In early October I met with James Hale, and he informed me of this proposal for a possible new marina. I fully support this proposal, as I see a 48-slip marina for the backside of the Shipyard in Lagoon Pond benefitting a large part of the Island community.

Boating is a large part of the lifestyle for people who live on Martha's Vineyard, and there is a severe lack of docking space for year-round boaters. Waiting lists for town moorings and dock spaces are long, and not always attainable. This proposal would change that.

Mr. Hale has done his research; he is well versed on current environmental advancements and developments, as well as impending climate change and how it directly impacts Martha's Vineyard.

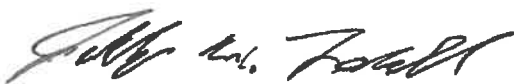
The effort outlined in the proposal to bridge a coexisting working relationship between boaters and shellfish farmers is something that should be noted. It is possible for both groups to coexist together in Lagoon Pond with a new marina.

Additionally, the Shipyard is one of the largest year-round employers on Martha's Vineyard. This marina proposal has the potential to create new full-time jobs for Islanders.

If this project is allowed, it will change the current seaside infrastructure to include less buildings and more water views, which would assist with the beautification of Beach Road.

Boating and recreation come second nature to many Island residents, myself included. Change is good, and I wholeheartedly hope we as a community can move forward with this proposal to further embrace the needs of our island home.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey W. LaBell