

To: Tisbury Conservation Commission

Date: 10/11/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I look at this project from the prospective that boatyards are a very necessary part of life. My grandfather used to tell us that they needed to charge us for every little thing or they would go out of business and we would be left with some sort of vacation homes in their place.

In the case of the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard they need to make this change to survive. They are an excellent facility that has striven to stay viable in very limited conditions. During all my years of dealing with them, which is over fifty now, they have always made efforts to stay on the forefront of environmental improvements and emerging technologies. Those are too numerous to list here but the two major ones are a contaminate collecting bottom washing system and our first commercially based pump-out system available to the boating public. They weren't forced to do either of these things and they demonstrate their commitment to the health of our harbor.

They also contribute to that health by always being proactive in the face of inclement weather. Many more boats would end up on our shores spreading fuel and other contaminants if not for their diligence.

Near thirty ago now the Lagoon boatyards and the Town entered into an agreement to dredge the entrance channel to the West Arm of the Lagoon. It was done on an emergency bases to continue to be able to safely land response vessels and others when the conditions in the inner harbor prevented it. A side benefit appeared to be an improvement in the scallop harvest for several years. This was attributed to increased water flow. Water quality is much enhanced in Lake Tashmoo with regular dredging. This could also happen with the small amount of dredging required for this little marina proposed there.

People need a safe place to keep their boats. Power boats in particular don't do very well on moorings. They are more safely kept at a dock. Our Town needs this expanded facility to accommodate our growing boating public. Much of the best scalloping for years has been adjacent to what is now Prime Marina. Boatyards, marinas and shell fishing have coexisted for centuries.

This small business is a vibrant part of our small Towns economy and working waterfront.

We should do all we can to help them survive.

Sincerely,



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