

Matthew Stackpole
PO Box 803
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September 17, 2019

Dear Members of the Tisbury Conservation Commission,

I write in support of the project being presented to you by the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard. I have had personal contact with the Shipyard since arriving on the Vineyard in 1966 to work on the *Shenandoah*, had a mooring in Vineyard Haven Harbor since 1973, and been a Shipyard customer since then.

The M.V. Shipyard traces its lineage to 1850 and is the 3d oldest continuously operated business enterprise on the island; no surprise given the important role the harbor has played in Vineyard history. The maritime enterprises that surround the harbor reflect both its maritime heritage and the important role they have and continue to play in the economic base and character of the town.

The only constant in history is change and that has certainly been the case with both the harbor and the Shipyard. The important environmental regulations that have been developed, what customers require/expect, and what the market demands have all changed. From my perspective the changes the Shipyard has experienced: no longer building boats, travel lift technology, the ability to transport boats on hydraulic trailers, the increasingly stringent environmental standards for operating a shipyard, which I fully support, and the number of vessels that call the harbor home are the most dramatic.

The proposal before you reflects the Shipyard's modifying its business model in response to these changes. They have recognized an unmet need and the opportunity to meet it which their expertise and location provide.

I am impressed with the quality of analysis and thinking they have done, the recognition of their responsibility to protect the Lagoon's environment, and the scale of the project.

I think the record of what the Shipyard has done environmentally over the years exemplifies their commitment to living up to their responsibilities to protect the marine environment that is the harbor and lagoon and is a most positive factor in their favor as you consider their proposal.

Sincerely,



Matthew Stackpole