

**RAY LAPORTE**  
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Tisbury Conservation Commission  
66 Highpoint Lane  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

October 1, 2019

ATTN: Jane Varkonda, Agent

RE: Martha's Vineyard Shipyard

Dear Commission Members:

I wish to express my unconditional endorsement of the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard's proposal to develop a much needed marina and its attendant site improvements to accommodate the ever increasing recreational and commercial boating demands on the Vineyard. I am confident that the Commission in weighing the proposal's benefits will see the merits of the Shipyard's application and approve it as presented.

The Shipyard's 160 year history is now operated for the last 60 years by the Hale family, who live and support Tisbury's waterfront with distinction, have demonstrated strong environmental sensitivity to both the Lagoon and harbor and this proposal certainly continues that tradition. The proposal is precisely appropriate in the Harbor zoning district as a pure waterside business serving the ever increasing demands of the marine/boating public. The proposal specifically addresses the climate change and rising tide issues we are facing. The proposal provides public access, parking, improved waterside visibility and facility upgrades to an obsolete post-war building. Finally, and very

importantly, it provides a smart and environmentally sound alternative to a large mooring field that would have compromised acres of shellfish beds.

The boating public is starving for better access to the water for recreational and commercial purposes. The wait list for moorings continues to expand and few new moorings are approved. The boaters have fewer choices and diminished hope to ever be accommodated. This proposal offers some relief for them while remaining sensitive to the environment.

I am certain that by weighing the many benefits versus the few detriments you will come to the conclusion to support this important proposal.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal and your service to Tisbury.



Ray LaPorte  
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