

November 13, 2019

Mr. Adam Turner
Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am writing on behalf of Martha's Vineyard Shipyard and their proposed marina development on Beach Road and the Lagoon Pond in Vineyard Haven. I understand you have several upcoming review meetings associated with their proposal, and I wish to express my support for their plan.

My wife, Liza, and I are seasonal summer residents in Vineyard Haven, and have owned our house at 61 Causeway Road since 2010. We are avid boaters, and enjoy fishing, boating and exploring the Lagoon and waters around the island. I am also a strong proponent of environmental stewardship for our island and water resources.

Having regularly visited the island for many years prior to owning a house here, I have long felt it important that Vineyard Haven maintain a vibrant waterfront with businesses involved in marine use and boating. To me, that is an important element of the history and culture of Vineyard Haven and perhaps its main attracting feature.

Sadly, in my view, the waterfront businesses in Vineyard Haven are trending slowly away from boating and marine use. The town is now down to only a handful of waterfront related businesses that face strong challenges from economic and environmental issues. Unchecked, that trend will eventually eliminate the waterfront as we know it, and therefore I support prudent proposals to enhance the Vineyard Haven waterfront, such as the proposal from Martha's Vineyard Shipyard.

After learning about their plan this past summer, I met at length with James and Phil Hale in mid-October at the Shipyard to talk about the details of their plan. I wanted to fully understand the details of the plan, assess the merits, understand the economic impact and be assured that it was consistent with the environmental health of Lagoon Pond. We held a lengthy meeting in which I asked extensive questions on every element of their proposal. Having a career background at the federal government level involving environmental policy, my strongest questioning involved their plans to protect the environment, including shell-fishing in the Lagoon, dredging, potential runoff and other water quality issues.

My takeaway from that meeting, and subsequent conversations, is that their plan strikes a very responsible and thoughtful balance between economic benefits, waterfront enhancement and environmental protection. I think the proposed marina will not damage Lagoon water quality

nor shell-fishing, and frankly could serve as the basis for partnerships in the future to actually improve those areas. From an economic standpoint, approving the marina would be an important first step toward long term enhancement and revitalization of the waterfront, good for both marine-use businesses and restaurants and other businesses along Beach Road. In short, I think their plan will have a very positive impact on the health and culture of our town, and that projects like it are long overdue.

I hope you will give the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard marina plan a careful and in-depth review, and ultimately give your approval for them to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve May', written in a cursive style.

Steve May
202-253-0769