

Paul Foley

From: Len Morris [galenchief@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 9:46 AM
To: Paul Foley
Cc: Schepici, Denise; Delgadillo, Katrina
Subject: Wildflower Court

Martha's Vineyard Commission members:

I am writing in support of the MVH's application to re-purpose space at the Hospital campus(formerly known as Wildflower Court) into offices for newly hired primary care physicians.

My name is Len Morris and I have lived at 110 Daggett Ave. in Vineyard Haven for the past 31 years. My brother in law is a long term care resident at Windemere and was the last patient to live in the now defunct Wildflower Court. I have worked over the past 18 months with the Committee of Concerned Citizens to urge that elder care issues and strategic planning for the future of elder care be undertaken immediately. I also produced the first public relations video for Wildflower Court when it was a brand new facility over twenty years ago, it was at that time a beautiful state of the art center for independent living. But times change and so has virtually everything regarding elderly care options on this island.

The work of Peter Temple, Patty Moore and the Healthy Aging Task Force has provided an excellent overview of where home care and residential care for seniors is going on the Cape and here on our island. The new CEO at the Hospital, Denise Schepici recognizes and acknowledges the on-going and increasing need for such care and has, along with her Board, committed MVH as an active participant in finding solutions. The development of a an initial residential care center to be managed by Navigator, one of the leading companies in this sector, sends a powerful message to the island that the new Hospital administration is committed to our health at all ages, particularly the growing elderly population.

So rather than abandon our elderly and concern the Hospital solely with pressing daily health care needs, Denise has clearly provided the leadership needed to move us forward with new initiatives for long term care. At the same time, as islanders we need access to our primary care physicians and she is addressing that issue with new hires and the request for space modification that is before you. I urge you to approve the Hospital's request.

Denise Schepici is right when she points out that the current model of care at Windemere is not sustainable, either financially or as a model for delivery of medical care in a social and community context. It's simply out-dated. Families want common areas to use when they visit their family members and they want fresh air, some exterior space and a social context for their loved ones. The designs I have seen for the proposed new facilities, which will still offer care to those who cannot afford it, are exciting. These new facilities, once built, will be attractive enough to draw private pay clients.

But more importantly, the new initiatives will enable our mothers, fathers, siblings and friends to age here on island in the communities where they worked and lived.

I have met with Denise and Hospital officials privately around the topic of long-term care. She has made a clear commitment to keep the existing long term care open until such time as the new options are available. She is providing the leadership we need to get the Hospital on a clear path to addressing long term care issues. I also believe the primary care needs of islanders are critical and immediate and so I see the use of the space for offices as reasonable.

I hope the Commission will approve this application to enable the Hospital to create increased office space for physicians. I also hope the Commission will support the Healthy Aging Task Force in their work in the years to come. We are only at the starting line but the project has been carefully researched and is undertaken by good people for the benefit of all islanders.

Sincerely,
Len Morris