

October 25, 2017

Martha's Vineyard Commission  
Box 1477  
Oak Bluffs MA. 02557

Re: Edgartown Stop and Shop Project

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing because I feel so strongly against the Stop and Shop expansion project on Upper Main Street in Edgartown. And it all boils down to traffic and parking issues. The planning of this project is very poorly done and so over done. The scope will draw more than 4 cars per minute, 240 cars per hour, 1840 during an 8 hour day. And they have not planned enough parking spaces for the additional traffic. Please look at the numbers. They do not add up. When discussing this project, people will say - but the new exit will be across from Pinehurst Rd. This could very well be a much worse situation. It is probable that traffic on Pinehurst will increase all the way to the West Tisbury Rd in order to avoid Upper Main Street. There are already backups to the stop sign at the corner by Al's.

I don't believe that the count of the parking spaces is accurate. They are based on 2015 counts and this summer's parking was over the top horrible. This is the first summer that parking has overflowed into the bank parking lot. Those spaces should not have been included in the count. However, the parking spaces at the pharmacy should have been included in the count and were not - totally inaccurate. So the spaces needed are many more than presented.

I agree that we need additional grocery space, but not at the cost of Edgartown. They should be putting another store in another town or at the airport. The store will be a draw no matter where it is.

I can go on and on. But, basically I do not believe that the expansion should be in Edgartown. We are over run and over burdened by traffic now and it really does affect the charm and personality of our quaint New England town. Many summer people have commented to me this year that it seems like there is more traffic than they have ever seen before. There is a point where people will begin to go elsewhere because of difficulty of getting around, access to events and beaches all because of over crowding.

As far as housing is concerned - I ran into a couple of Eastern European boys this May who had just arrived on the Island. They were asking anyone and everyone where they could find a

place to live. I asked them if they had jobs. They said yes, at Stop and Shop. I told them to go there and ask if they had any housing. I later heard back that they were not given housing. I felt badly for these boys and I wonder just how many students came over and were in the same situation. I am glad for the employees who do come from somewhere and are given housing as part of their job. It is necessary because Islanders often don't seem to want these jobs. But the downside is that it takes away from housing available to Island families.

Thank you for considering my opinion when making your decision about this very important project. It will affect all of our lives and livelihoods for years to come.

Best regards,

Caroline Taylor  
52 Kitts Field Cir  
Edgartown, MA 02539  
508 627-2493