

October 26, 2017

TO: Martha's Vineyard Commission

FROM: Ron Domurat

SUBJECT: Stop & Shop Expansion

I oppose this project for the following reasons

Traffic-As has often been documented the Triangle/Upper Main Street section of Edgartown is a heavily congested area - a choke point. The Stop and Shop expansion will only exacerbate the problem. Just the relocation of the pharmacy alone will direct additional traffic into this chokepoint at the Triangle. On August 16, 2017, I sat in my car at the pharmacy and between the hours of 10:30 and 11:00 AM and counted 29 separate visits to the pharmacy or an additional 60 vehicles per hour. These vehicles will now be added to the crawl on Upper Main Street and be over and above the additional shopping visits and commercial vehicle traffic created by the expansion of the store alone.

Impact on Local Business: The original expansion plans called for expanding the fish and bakery departments. There are a number of fish markets on Martha's Vineyard and most run by local families who have been on the island for generations. One is within a few hundred yards away. It is very likely that expanding the fish department would have a negative impact on their sales. The same would hold true for local businesses selling baked goods and pastries both in the Triangle area and the downtown section of Edgartown.

In addition, there is a small three store strip mall almost directly across the street whose business will be affected by the traffic issues mentioned above. Ingress and egress is already an issue.

It's an Eyesore-The Upper Main Street area is the gateway to the beautiful and historic village of Edgartown. For first time visitors it is their first impression of the town. The Upper Main Street bank building is iconic and adds to the charm of the area. Why destroy this building to expand the Stop and Shop facility and pave over the parking lot

I urge the members of the Martha's Vineyard to deny this application and urge the Stop & Shop to purchase property and construct a new building on the outskirts of town where it will be less obtrusive and easily accessed.

"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got til it's gone. They paved paradise and put up a parking lot". Joni Mitchell

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