

## Paul Foley

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**From:** Steven Anagnos [sanagnos\_117@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:20 AM  
**To:** Paul Foley  
**Subject:** Special Permit Application

Paul Foley  
DRI Analyst/Planner  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
PO Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

To All Those Concerned,

As a member of the island community, I implore you to approve the permit to allow Patient Centric of Martha's Vineyard to operate a dispensary in West Tisbury. The need for a legal, professional source of this alternative medicine can not be over-stated. With the rise in opiate addiction, the need for a safer alternative is painfully obvious. As a medical cannabis patient, I can share my personal story which is an example of how cannabis can offer a partial solution to this problem. This can best be done by sharing a letter that I submitted to my surgeon after undergoing a laminectomy and fusion of 5 cervical vertebrae in 2013.

Dr Michael Groff  
Neurosurgery  
Brigham & Women's Hospital  
Boston MA

2/06 /2014

Dear Dr Groff,

In this day and age, where the prescription drug abuse crisis has reached epidemic proportions, I thought that you, and others, might find this of interest. Although I realize that this is not a broad-based study, it seems worthy of consideration.

When I was discharged from the hospital following my cervical fusion surgery, I was told that I would be on narcotics for at least 3 weeks. On the 8th day following surgery, I began weening myself off of the Oxycodone that had been prescribed, and supplementing it with Cannabis products. The products I was using were a medium-grade canna-butter (which I would spread on toast,) and inhalation of vapors from the herbal material itself. I started off using 1 TBSP of butter every 6-8 hours for the first few days, and then began taking it only before bed to relieve discomfort and aid in sleep. During the day, I would take a few puffs from the vaporizer as needed to keep me at a comfort level that was acceptable to me. Ten days after surgery, I was off the Oxycodone completely and was able to manage my pain solely through the use of Cannabis products. The benefits, and my motivation, are that it does not cause constipation, does not cause nausea, and most importantly, allowed me to stop ingesting highly addictive little pills.

As you know, the long term use of narcotics after surgery or injury all too often leads to a situation where the patient becomes dependent on the drug and ultimately becomes addicted. Due to the excessive cost of

prescription meds on the street, these people often turn to Heroin as a cheaper alternative as they struggle with their addiction. Perhaps the route I took might be something that can be recommended as an alternative for people with concern about narcotics.

The enclosed prescription for 120 Oxycodone tabs I am returning because I simply don't need them.

Respectfully,

Steven W Anagnos  
3 Carole Ave  
Vineyard Haven, Ma 02568

Like myself, there are many who find relief from a variety of ailments through the use of this medicine. I don't really think the need, or validity of cannabis as a source of relief needs to be discussed. What we need to do as a community is to move forward with this project in a responsible way, and begin by approving this application.

Mr Rose has already proven himself as a responsible business owner who puts the island community at the forefront of his mission statement. As a founder of "Our Island Club" Geoff has provided much-needed financial relief to islanders, and contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to island charities. West Tisbury is a great central location that makes logistical sense for this facility. Further, the designated sight is properly zoned.

Right service, right product, right location, and right ownership. Again, I ask for you to do the right thing and approve this application.

Respectfully,

Steven W Anagnos  
Oak Bluffs