

Dec. 12, 2019

Adam Turner  
Executive Director  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
turner@mvcommission.org

Dear Mr. Turner:

We are writing again to urge that the Commission reject the proposal for a take-out window at the Barn Bowl and Bistro (the Barn).

We are residential abutters to the Barn and are united in opposition to the proposal. We stand by our previous statements regarding our fears and concerns about the Barn's efforts to further encroach on our residential neighborhood. Our experience has been that each new request they propose that gets approved further exacerbates the issues of loitering, littering, commercial vehicle traffic, and noise pollution – both man made and mechanical —as well as the occasional altercations that spill over onto neighboring streets from Uncas Avenue. We've detailed and documented this in our earlier letters to the Commission.

The Barn developers complain about it being awkward to have patrons come into the area where people are eating to pick up their take-out orders. That is how the vast majority of restaurants on the island operate.

We have raised far more significant concerns about the Barn and its adverse impact on our enjoyment of our homes at numerous meetings, as well as in writing over the last six-plus years and are still waiting for the developers to follow through on the relief this and other bodies have provided us on paper.

It is not surprising that the Barn developers waited to put forth their proposals in the off season when its residential neighbors are less likely to be present in full force. And, if we are, it is often at great personal expense. This deliberate strategy at the very least can only be viewed as intentionally subversive, deceitful and underhanded.

While we welcomed and appreciated the public hearing, it took place during the holiday season, making it even more difficult for us to attend.

We understand from what we have derived from the Commission's Dec. 5, 2019, meeting, Sam Dunn is dismissive of us (although we have never made such ad hominem attacks against him) and our concerns about the serious issues we raise.

We are the only ones who know firsthand the real impact of living abutting the Barn. We're not seeking to limit their operation, but rather to protect the character of our well-established residential neighborhood.

We respectfully request that the Commission keep the hearing period open so that we can have an opportunity to be present. We would work with you to coordinate the date. If that's not possible, we respectfully urge you to reject the Barn's expansion proposal until the developers fulfill long-standing prior commitments it made to this body and others.

Sincerely,

The Hiawatha Avenue Neighborhood Association

Donna Wilkerson Brilliant  
Peggy Barmore  
Byron and Kathleen Barnett  
Diane Clarke Streett

Cc: Lucy Morrison ([Morrison@mvcommission.org](mailto:Morrison@mvcommission.org))