

Paul Foley

To: Chris Seidel; Adam Turner; Bill Veno; Christine Flynn; Curtis Schroeder; Dan Doyle; Jo-Ann Taylor; Lucy Morrison; Mike Mauro; Sheri Caseau
Subject: RE: Meeting House Way Project, Edgartown

From: Saul Greenfield <spgreenfieldny@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 12:39 PM

To: Chris Seidel <seidel@mvcommission.org>

Subject: Meeting House Way Project, Edgartown

To Martha's Vineyard Planning Commission:

My home is adjacent to the proposed large scale development in Edgartown on Meeting House Way. I am unable to attend the scheduled session in January.

While there are environmental and affordable housing concerns regarding the proposed mega-development, I believe that the Planning Commission should address other issues that may be more significant to the future of the island. Most important, I believe that the town, as well as the Martha's Vineyard Commission should consider that a tipping point may have been reached and exceeded. The crush of traffic, accessibility to town centers and beaches is not unlike any suburban area adjacent to a major metropolitan area in the United States. Certainly, that is not what the many who come here for refuge and vacation expect. Why come at all if these hassles are confronted daily, requiring advanced planning, strategy and increased time commitment to travel or park? Furthermore, beach erosion has resulted in crowding more resembling Coney Island than Martha's Vineyard Island. The image of Martha's Vineyard as a relatively unspoiled place of beauty and respite may already be a myth.

Solutions to this issue are not easy and without controversy. Perhaps there should be immediate and retroactive changes to zoning for new developments, requiring 2 or 3 acres/home--if development is allowed at all? Perhaps the Land Bank or related foundations should be more aggressive in buying large tracts of undeveloped land? Perhaps conservation related tax easements should be employed and required with any development proposal, leaving land undeveloped in perpetuity?

In any case, thanks for hearing me out.

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