

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

From: Jeffrey Agnoli
Edgartown, MA

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing the Commission on the matter of the proposed MeetingHouse Place Development. I attended the February 7, 2019 MVC meeting on the project, and made my opposition, and the reasons for it, in public comments.

I write to you now to reinforce the words I spoke during the February meeting. I urge you again to follow closely the points made in the letter to the Commission written by Pat Kager. Mr. Kager's letter is in the public record, and was mentioned briefly at the last meeting.

Mr. Kager's cogent and thorough delineation of the major issues this development raises provides a useful tool for weighing its benefits and detriments, and it is my fervent hope that the Commission will indeed look closely at each issue raised and act accordingly. I believe the public, with so much at stake in the decision you will render, deserves to hear exactly how any decision was reached.

The project has little to recommend it, outside of the profit that will be reaped by the developers and their consultants. The environment and the larger community lose. There is no pressing need for these luxury homes, many of which will be second or third homes for their affluent owners. In the face of ever increasing inequality, this project threatens the very nature of this island as a place for all types of people. A unique piece of woodland, much of it once used for agriculture, would be sacrificed to build enormous houses, with their permanent attendant drains on water and sewer systems. The negative impact of this project on a sensitive, irreplaceable ecosystem of watershed, woodlands, and the priceless Great Pond, is beyond calculation. Money and prestige are not the only measures of a community's health.

Lastly, I believe the Commission should be looking at the proposed 34-lot Meetinghouse Way project as one component in a contiguous three-parcel project on both sides of Division Road, eventually totaling closer to 50 lots. It is short-sighted not to see what will unfold in stages, but nevertheless will have even a more detrimental effect on the area.

The Island community looks to you, the Commission, to see the big picture, to honor your inspiring charter and its mission, to think about future generations, and to protect our community's values, which include fairness and reverence for our fragile natural and social environment. I urge you to deny this application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Agnoli
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