

From: [betsy_carnie](#)
To: [Paul Foley](#); [Lucy Morrison](#)
Subject: DRI 682
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:05:18 PM

As a member of the Island community, I urge you to vote against the Meeting House Place Subdivision. I am writing to express my concern about the effects of this kind of continued development on the Island. I feel that the Island is pressing on with the development of remaining open spaces in a way that will ultimately destroy the nature and character of the island. And so many of the people I speak with express the same sentiment. I think we all can see that if we continue on the trajectory that we are on, the very things that are so wonderful about this place will be gone.

This project presents many problems common to unchecked development. Its proximity to the Island's beloved pond systems in this area, brings up serious questions about developments like this one affecting water quality. Wildlife like bats, owls, butterflies, turtles, and other species will be impacted through the fragmenting and ultimately destruction of habitat. These are creatures who are not only beloved but necessary to the health of our ecosystems.

So where will we draw the line? How far will we go down this projected path before we regret what has happened to this place? When do we begin to say no to unsustainable development? I hear so much from the Vineyard community that we *want* to say no to projects like the Meeting House Development. When do we find the footing to begin to say it out loud?

Recently, on matters like the Airport Expansion and the proposed bigger and better Steamship Authority terminal, the Vineyard community is coming out to say: We don't want this. We don't want bigger. We don't want more. We don't want to be like every other place. At the Airport Expansion public feedback meeting, the MEPA representative said with wide eyes that he doesn't usually see this kind of turn out at this type of meeting in other communities. And the message of *this* community was a resounding No. It's time to draw the line.

I implore the MVC to say no to the Meeting House Place Subdivision development project. It's time to say out loud what we all feel and know to be true. If we are going to maintain the character and nature of this Island we can not go on with unsustainable development like this one.

Sincerely,
Betsy Carnie,
Tisbury resident