

June 17, 2020

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Morrison@mvcommission.org

RE: DRI 682B Meeting House Way 2nd Redesign

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider my concerns on the project before you:

1. The developer's answers to the MVC's list of Questions for Applicant are vague and inadequate. This proposal has many unsolidified aspects, which is very worrisome. I know from firsthand experience what actually gets built after MVC approval can be very different than what was proposed, and there are no teeth to enforce what is not written concretely into the record. Please be very meticulous in your review.
2. The assertion that the covenants of the development will be self-enforced is entirely unsatisfactory. The MVC should be required to follow up on past DRI approvals to learn what happens after a project leaves their purview. Provisions such as no cut zones, lawn and fertilizer rules, dark sky suggestions, architecture and building size, road and tree maintenance are some examples of regulations the MVC writes in to make approval more palatable, but are demonstratively ignored after approval is received. I am an abutter to a previously approved DRI and I live with the consequences on a daily basis. The fact is there is no enforcement of covenants when they are self-enforced.
3. Houses such as the proposed are used for investment purposes, including short term rentals which exacerbate the economic disparity of our year round community.
4. I have observed the degradation of the Edgartown Great Pond personally for fifty years, as my grandparents built a camp on its shore 65 years ago. My

family used to collect food from the pond, but we are no longer able as the pond is not as healthy. Efforts are being made to restore the pond, please review the expert opinion of Emily Reddington, Executive Director of the Great Pond Foundation, previously submitted.

The consequences of approving this project are myriad. We've seen it time and again: a developer proposes a large project, the MVC shaves it down, feels as if they've gotten concessions, and the development is approved to the detriment of the environment and community. Where does it end? The choice is yours.

Sincerely,

Lisa Strachan

Vineyard Haven, MA