

June 10th 2020

To: The Martha's Vineyard Commission

Re: Meeting House Way Proposal - DRI #682B

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been following the project since its inception and am a homeowner and resident of Edgartown.

I feel very strongly that the latest submission of the Meeting House Way project includes some very significant wins for the island, its residents and local workforce. The most significant of which include the commitment to additional affordable housing and workforce housing units - units that will be made available at prices that would otherwise be unattainable on the island.

Now, more than ever, I feel that we must consider the positive lift that will be needed for our local economy and workers and can be aided by a project like this. Not only in the local building trades but in other areas of the Island economy as well. The 28 homes that this will add to the existing 15,000 homes on the vineyard will go largely unnoticed, but the boost to the local jobs and trades men and women will not.

Local workforce such as general contractors, electricians, plumbers, painters, lumber suppliers, landscapers, roofers, etc. all rely on projects such as this to keep their businesses running and support the local economy. Many millions of dollars will be spent on building this project, most of which will stay in the local economy. In addition, the incremental tax income that this will generate will help Edgartown, and MV as a whole, providing additional funding for important city departments and programs such as schools, libraries, police, fire, park & recreation, and infrastructure.

I have reviewed the developer's plans. They are thoughtful, respectful to the land & island's character, and have incorporated many requests from the commission and public. It appears as though despite the numerous iterations and improvements the commission is still not satisfied. At what point can we say the developers have done their diligence, met every requirement, and bent over backwards to make the residents of the Vineyard & the commission happy?

Lastly, I encourage the commission to consider the historical significance of the affordable housing donation and its potential impacts for local workers. Now, more than ever is affordable housing on the island needed as prices continue to rise and the supply/ demand remains in imbalance.

Thank you,

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