

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Thanks for the opportunity to add to my comments from June 11, 2020.

The speakers who spoke on June 11, 2020 re the indisputable fact that the tipping point for the Edgartown Great Pond is NOW, shook us to our core. The salt ponds of Edgartown make our island quite unique. Once lost, the salt ponds are lost forever. It is an irrevocable decision with huge consequences.

During the last public hearing, it was asserted that the area has a sewage plant operating under capacity. It was also asserted that 80% of the island's residents are currently on septic. Common sense demands that priority should be given to hooking up existing island homes that are already on septic and waiting for a connection point. We are a case in point. While no one can undo what's been done, we all bear a collective responsibility for the future, our children and grandchildren. Priority should NOT be on adding any new nitrogen load. Priority should be on REDUCING the nitrogen load, the well documented cause of the looming "death" of the Edgartown Great Pond. The island's priority should be increasing the number and capacity of sewage processing plants. As it stands, we are putting "the cart before the horse".

Once again, thanks for your service and your dedication to the mission of the MV Commission.

Donald and Bonnie Foley