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Mr. Paul Foley | DRI Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission
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June 7, 2020

RE: DRI 682 Meeting House Place Subdivision

Dear Mr. Foley:

We vehemently oppose the Meeting House development the MVC is reviewing. This is one of the largest to "hit" the Island in a long time and needs to be completely denied; no more back and forth. We are aware the developers made efforts to reduce the scope, and thus the overall detrimental impact, but such efforts do not improve the project at all.

Thanks to many on the Island, who have been rigorously dedicated to studying and preserving the health of Edgartown Great Pond, the health of EGP has improved visually and quantifiably; supporting this data is very compelling in the Water Quality Monitoring Assessment of the Martha's Vineyard Island-Wide Estuaries and Salt Ponds Summary 2017 submitted to the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

We are, therefore, concerned about **any alterations** to EGP and its watershed that may worsen current conditions and ultimately disturb the stability of the Pond ecosystem. This concern includes any new home, and new road, any clearing of land, particularly vegetated areas, where there is an influx of nitrogen, albeit small, into the Pond through the groundwater.

Even though reduced, the proposed development includes 36 lots with 6300 sqft homes, plus garages. The amount of nitrogen generated by these large homes will inevitably result in a **net increase of nitrogen** into the watershed.

Although the plan is to have these homes sewerred, and the nitrogen thereby downgraded to a relatively average effluent of 3 ppm, this is still **additional nitrogen** entering the EGP watershed and increasing the overall nitrogen load on EGP. Too much progress has been made to allow a huge setback like this, which could wipe out the progress of years of efforts.

In addition to wastewater, each of these homes will likely have lawns, gardens and landscaping of these areas, which could result in the introduction of more nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other harmful compounds into the watershed. This will lead to further eutrophication and cause algae blooms that harm the Pond ecosystem.

We are stunned that you are even considering any possible increase in the amount of nitrogen entering the watershed, much less one of this size.

Instead, why not finish the work of sewerred all the rest of the existing homes within the watershed; this would result in a reduction of net nitrogen loading in the watershed assuming the current capacity of the Edgartown Wastewater Treatment Facility can handle this.

We appreciate the care with which the Martha's Vineyard Commission conducts the DRI process, and we thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Linda and Gerald Jones