

June 13, 2020

ATTN: Martha's Vineyard Commission, Edgartown MA

RE: Follow up to 6/11 meeting – Support for the Meetinghouse Place project

Michael & Peggy Frick, Hotchkiss Lane Residents

Message from the EXPERTS regarding this project – REDUCE NITROGEN ! Environmentally Sound plan !

Good afternoon MVC Board,

I wanted to follow up from the board meeting on June 10th and the discussion of Meetinghouse Place. After I spoke about my support for the project, several other “Experts” spoke in opposition to the project. However, their arguments clearly support why this project should move forward. We are not even going to discuss the benefits of the 14 Townhomes here – just the environmental benefits.

Each Expert cited their concerns for the Edgartown pond and the Nitrogen levels affect on the pond. We all agree this is an issue that needs to be dealt with. It is also unrealistic to cease all building on the island, something many of these folks and possibly some board members privately support. This development will be 100% on sewer, fully solar, and will tie in other septic bound homes to the sewer lines. You asked for them to come in below 105 Kgs of Nitrogen – they came in at, and correct me if I am wrong, 94% of allowable with only 6 Hotchkiss homes tying in (7 have agreed to tie in) which is 4% below the target. If 12 Hotchkiss homes tie in, they will be at 56% of the allowable, 46% below the target. Further the Meetinghouse Place team agreed during the meeting to look for additional homes to tie in thus taking more homes off septic. If my Hotchkiss neighbors are truly concerned about the Pond, they too should all tie in at Meetinghouse Place’s expense once the project is approved.

Based on the above, it sounds to me like the Meetinghouse Place team is going beyond what they were required to do. They agree with the experts and showed them how adding more septic bound homes to the sewer line is both prudent and a huge benefit to the island. Further, if the approved plan for 5 homes on 5 acre lots goes forward, one can see what some homeowners will do by clearing their lots of all trees. From the estimates shared, the 5 homes alone could exceed the 105 G of Nitrogen which would be a forever lost opportunity by the board to avoid this calamity.

Now, the board needs to do your job. From an environmental standpoint, Are you blind to the benefits laid out in this project? Can you not see how this can be a template for future projects across the island on how to proceed and benefit all islanders? Does it not make sense for the MVC Board to take the lead on this idea, firm it up even more, and take it across the island for all new and possibly some existing projects?

This makes perfect sense to me, looking at it as an Islander. Why can’t the MVC Board see the same ?

PLEASE - Work together with the Meetinghouse Place team and the experts and get this project and the benefits it encompasses approved and out to all on the island, showing the vast benefits this project can and will deliver to Martha’s Vineyard.

Thank you

Michael and Peggy Frick