

To the members of the MVC,

I write this as a West Tisbury resident, living and working in our community, raising two children who attend the West Tisbury Elementary School and the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

I work at Tea Lane Associates, the business that is abutting Patient Centric's Marijuana Dispensary. I write to express my grave concern about the proposed sale of recreational marijuana in addition to medical marijuana and how this will impact the safety, traffic, and energy of West Tisbury State Road.

My parents and sister live in Northampton, MA - home to NETA, one of the first dispensaries in MA to sell recreational marijuana.

In the early days of the opening of NETA the line was hundreds of consumers long and stretched around the block. Local police were called in to manage traffic and crowds. See attached article:

https://www.masslive.com/news/2018/11/day_2_of_recreational_marijuan.html

This was in 2018.

When I visit my parents - I drive by NETA. There is no other route I can take to get from the highway to their house in a quiet residential neighborhood.

At every visit (including the most recent when Massachusetts was still being advised to act with caution in terms of Covid 19) - at all times of day, in all weather conditions - there is still a line. A significant line. There are still police helping to manage traffic and the line. This is two years since the opening. I've never seen the sidewalk in front of the dispensary quiet and empty. NETA had plans in place for traffic management and crowd control - however this has not stopped the endless flow of customers, long lines of people outside the shop and lines of cars pulling in and out of the parking lot. You'll note in the article that the managers talked about sending staff out to manage the line, clearly they had made plans for how to move people in and out of the dispensary. From the outside looking in at the line and traffic flow it does not appear to move quickly or smoothly despite Neta's well intentioned plans.

I'm sure that Patient Centric's business will be equally successful. As business owners that should be their hope, but I do not think their current plan adequately addresses how to handle the success of their business, in terms of managing traffic flow and parking, and customers waiting for appointments.

Those waiting for their appointments will want to park nearby if the Patient Centric lot cannot accommodate them - Cronig's parking lot, MV Saving Bank, Tea Lane Associates - all have large lots and don't have staff or security to monitor who is coming and going.

Is this level of traffic and customers waiting for appointments appropriate for this location in West Tisbury?

On a personal level, I'm concerned for my ability to safely get in and out of our parking lot at Tea Lane. I'm concerned for the peaceful rural feeling that we hold dear in West Tisbury. I'm concerned how the traffic and the cars of waiting customers will impact the neighboring businesses, and the Charter School, and our police resources.

As I visualize the line of people and cars that I've witnessed in Northampton and try to picture this working smoothly at the proposed Patient Centric West Tisbury location I'm confident that this is not the best location for the recreational aspect of this business.

Sincerely,
Elissa Lash