

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission
From: Jeffrey Agnoli
56 Martha's Road
Edgartown, MA

June 6, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing as a private citizen to voice my objection to DRI 741, Surke Meadow, in Edgartown. As an abutter to the proposed subdivision, I have previously stated that one of the offers made by the applicant, the granting of a public walking trail easement, should be deleted from the application. I would like to extend the basis of my opposition to a larger context, where this DRI itself is seen as having significant negative effects on a fragile and threatened area of Edgartown.

The land intended for the subdivision is particularly unique and beautiful, and has for generations been a quiet but valued part of the area. Complex deed issues left the land informally useful to the local population, whose relationship with the parcel varied but was deeply appreciated. Hunting, walking, bird-watching, yes some illicit dumping, but overall this meadow and surrounding woods have been a valuable asset to the public, especially those lacking large parcels themselves. Its owner has now legally fenced and parcelled this land, but five over-sized houses, with pools and hardscape, driveways and roads, is a degradation of the character and environment of this parcel and this area. Fence it to assert private ownership, but leave it as it is, rare and naturally valuable, and contributing to the health of the area and the overall environment.

The habitat that will be lost or degraded in order for this development to go forward, the fossil fuels that will be required to develop its infrastructure and the houses, the sacrifice of the last remnant of a semi-rural character to this part of Edgartown, all argue against the approval of this application. I urge the Commission to deny this application.

As a last point, I believe the approval of this application, because of its close approximation in character and location to the currently MVC- denied but contested Meetinghouse Way DRI, will unfortunately serve to bolster the case being made by the litigants in the case being appealed. Approval of DRI 741 will have many detrimental effects far beyond the granting of a walking trail easement.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Agnoli