

June 1, 2023

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission
Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Martha's Vineyard Commission

My name is Lisa Keise Miller. My family home is at 54 Martha's Road and is a direct abutter to the proposed subdivision Surke Meadows. We applaud the work of the MVC to maintain the island that we have come to know and love. We equally believe that the Land Bank serves a valuable purpose to protect the precious land of the Vineyard for all residents and visitors.

However, in the recent approval of Division Road and the review of Surke Meadows, we understand it is contemplated that a walking trail easement be granted directly behind the homes of Island Grove. This trail is to run along Old Meschacket Road, a road that exists only on a Land Court Map and has long since been abandoned. Today, there are no signs of the road other than a few former stakes that are surrounded by mature trees, grass and plants. It is a beautiful sanctuary home to birds and other wildlife.

The trail is the last sliver of wooded area between us and the new developments being built on Division Road and Surke Meadow. I am writing to urge that this trail be protected as it is, wild, undeveloped, a natural resource for wildlife, and a small measure of privacy for our home. Island Grove, our neighborhood, has many small paths that connect Division Road, Morning Glory Farm, Meshacket, and Meetinghouse Road. We love riding our bikes along these paths, down to Edgartown Great Pond, and connecting to the bike path to South Beach, or the triangle. More than anything, the island needs protection from clearing, and this area has enough trails to provide access to all. Please don't allow this trail easement at a substantial cost to the environment and the surrounding community.

Thank you for your consideration.



Lisa Keise Miller