

January 30, 2024

ATTN: Rick Saltzberg, DRI Coordinator

ATTN: Lucy Morrison, DRI Administrator

Martha's Vineyard Commission

info@mvcommissionorg

Re: DR#751 Vineyard Montessori School Expansion-Letter of Opposition

Dear Mr. Salzberg, Ms. Morrison and MV Commission members,

I am a property owner at the corner of Main St. and Locust Lane. The house has been in my family since my grandmother bought it in 1936. Our house is in use almost every month of the year and so we are very familiar with the neighborhood and the changes that have transpired. This is a neighborhood that is tight knit and respectful of each other. The larger Montessori building in recent years was a shock to say the least. From Locust Lane it looms practically on top of others with very little privacy. To add an additional building to the Montessori physical plant is not at all in keeping with a neighborhood. There has been no respect for how close these buildings are to homes and little concern for vegetation disruption, how to mitigate sound and light, and very importantly how adding more stress on our local septic/water systems will affect so many homes in this neighborhood. There is no question that runoff from the Montessori property is going into Locust Lane - we notice it at the bottom of the street with each rain.

This is a major issue. My feeling is that too much is being stuffed into too tight a space with no regard for neighbors. When the preschool was started years ago no one saw this as a catalyst for a much larger school within the confines of a small neighborhood. To add to the matter is the very real problem with traffic flow up and down Tashmoo Avenue. There is already too much traffic and during pick up and drop off times it greatly adds stress and safety issues to this once quieter street.

Please do not let the Dover Amendment get in the way of what it means to be a good and considerate neighbor. There can be no good will at all if regulations are not regarded in terms of setbacks, building footprints, height and structure regulations, The Commission must enforce some set of workable regulations. This is a successful school WITHIN a neighborhood. There is and should be respect for the homes surrounding this site.

I hope you will consider the responsibilities in this issue for the sake of this caring and quiet community with a lot of island family history.

Sincerely,

Katherine Reade Rosenblatt

310 Main St.

Vineyard Haven