

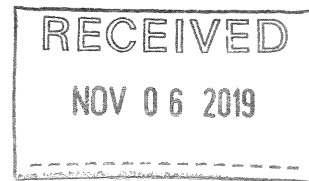


Edgartown Planning Board

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November 5, 2019

Mr. Doug Sederholm, Chairman
The Martha's Vineyard Commission
The Stone Building
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re/ DRI Checklist Ver 14 (as proposed)

Mr. Chairman:

As a Planning Board, we sincerely appreciate the time and effort expended by the DRI Checklist Committee in the process of conducting their review of the DRI Checklist. We join with other island towns in recognizing the value of a regional review of projects anticipated to have a regional impact. We also recognize that the MV Commission regulations mandate a bi-annual review of the DRI Checklist.

However, we must convey in the strongest possible terms our objection to the proposed changes to the DRI checklist (identified as Draft #14).

While the DRI Review Committee has clearly conducted extensive review, to our knowledge, **no rationale or justification has been provided** in support of these proposed changes.

To our knowledge, **the committee did not seek comment or recommendations for potential changes** from town boards and committees charged with regulating land use.

Once the changes were published for review, public hearings were conducted by the committee, resulting in significant feedback, much of which was critical of the proposed changes. However, to our knowledge, **our comments and concerns have not been taken into consideration**, as the original Draft #14 has been forwarded without modification to the full Commission for review.

We note that, more than two years ago, requests made to the MV Commission for better and more frequent exchanges of information between towns and the Commission, in order to provide positive impacts to Martha's Vineyard in a more collaborative way. While we receive (and appreciate) updates by MV Commission staff from time to time, **Commissioners have not endeavored to improve communication or collaboration**.

It should be noted that the Edgartown Planning Board's first responsibility is to the Town of Edgartown. However, we are equally committed to acting as a good neighbor, and supporting the best interests of the island as a whole as much as we are able.

However, **positive change and progress must be collaborative, and inclusive.** We regret that, based on our observations, we must conclude that this process of DRI Checklist review has been neither collaborative, nor inclusive.

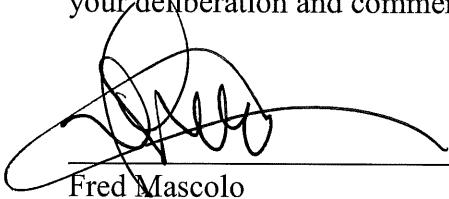
As a result, we must respectfully request that **no action be taken to adopt Draft #14, and that no changes be made to the DRI Checklist at this time.**

We believe that opportunities for reciprocal engagement between all towns and the Commission are essential to this process of review. Through mutual consensus, rather than by unilateral declaration, all towns will more readily understand, agree to, and support thresholds for regional impacts.

Therefore, we respectfully suggest that

- the MV Commission engage in a more collaborative and inclusive process by which thresholds for referral are discussed and determined;
- the MV Commission host and promote listening sessions to engage with residents, businesses, and island planners, in order to discuss thresholds of regional impact, and promote consensus among all participants;
- the MV Commission determine and publish clear and comprehensive criteria by which a DRI review, or a return without concurrence, might be reasonably anticipated; and
- the MV Commission review the DRI Referral procedures, in order to provide a more expedited path by which referrals can more quickly be forwarded for full DRI review, or returned to the Town without concurrence;

We will be participating in the DRI Checklist Committee Meetings on November 12 and 19, and expect to attend the MV Commission Meeting on November 21. We look forward to hearing your deliberation and comments.



Fred Mascolo



Michael McCourt

Lucy Morrison



Scott Morgan



Glen Searle