

1-14-13

Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Attn: Mr. Paul Foley
Email: foley@mvcommission.org

Cc: West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals
P.O. Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575
Attn: Julie Keefe, Board Administrator
Email: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov

Re: Objection to Proposed Verizon Cell Tower on Tisbury Great Pond in West Tisbury

Dear Mr. Foley,

I write to object to the proposed Verizon cell tower to be located off Town Cove on Tisbury Great Pond. Improving cell service is a laudable goal, but this proposed cell tower would forever change Tisbury Great Pond's uniquely pristine environment and vistas enjoyed by all.

I have been a seasonal renter on Tisbury Pond for the past 40 years. My objections to the proposed cell tower are as follows:

- Scenic preservation is a paramount value and policy objective for Martha's Vineyard, and coastal and scenic wetlands are especially sensitive and vulnerable. Tisbury Great Pond, its coves and swamps, and its neighboring forests and fields, provides irreplaceable views to visitors as well as both seasonal and year-round residents that would be permanently marred by the cell tower.
- Verizon's cell tower is a tall, permanent, industrial intrusion extending more than 40' above a low coastal forest landscape, significantly higher than allowable under zoning bylaws. The proposed fake pine alternative would be even more conspicuous and visually incongruous – either would stick out like a sore thumb from the surrounding low oak forest.
- The cell tower, at 80' would be highly visible from the publicly accessible Tisbury Great Pond (the much lower West Tisbury church steeple is a visible and noticeable man-made feature). Views from the pond extend for miles across a horizontal landscape of water, fields and trees -- the cell tower would be the only structure to project above the level of the horizon.
- The proposed tower is incompatible with the nature and character of West Tisbury and its community, and would be contrary to the highly successful efforts of West Tisbury (with its buried lines and strict zoning) to maintain its historic, natural and agricultural character.
- Feasible and less visually intrusive alternatives to an 80' cell tower (location, technology, much shorter tower, several smaller vs. one huge tower) are available and have not been fully evaluated.
- If the Verizon cell tower is allowed, MVC would be obligated to allow similar concessions to competitors and therefore would lose its authority to stop other companies from locating cell towers in coastal and Great Pond locations to the permanent detriment of the scenic beauty of Martha's Vineyard.

Sincerely yours,


Colton Hand MD

MV address: 5 Carls Way, West Tisbury MA and
permanent addresses 6108 Ridge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816