

Paul Foley

From: Geoff Wheeler [gwheeler51@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 9:31 AM
To: london@mvcommission.org; foley@mvcommission.org
Subject: Supporting expanded VH Stop & Shop

Gentlemen,

As "the primary year round town", I believe it is crucial to maintain the central district of VH. The existing Stop & Shop is conveniently located, but remains an embarrassment when compared to the Edgartown store. I would be thrilled if I did not have to split my shopping between the two stores as a result of limited shelf space in the VH store. I do not enjoy driving to Edgartown to grocery shop when the same chain is located right here in town, but is unable to carry the full range of products.

I'm confident that the architects can design a tasteful store front that provides some much needed additional parking. It would eliminate the endless circling in the existing lot and most likely prevent shoppers from clogging the steamship waiting lot where they are not supposed to be. Do you really think it is going to bring that many new shoppers through five corners that don't already shop here? Our residents would simply have more choices, avoid trips to other stores, and spend more money in our town. In fact, if Stop & Shops alternative exit design is deemed acceptable, it might even reduce some congestion on Water Street. Much of our five corners traffic summer concerns could be eliminated if the summer help would actually direct traffic instead of standing on the sidewalk watching it in total bewilderment.

I don't believe it would be wise to force Stop & Shop out of the central district as lack of convenient grocery shopping is one of keys to the demise of towns as strip malls are created outside of town. We need to keep the town vibrant. The current location is convenient to visiting boaters who don't have cars and spend a lot of money with us - don't force Stop & Shop to abandon Vineyard Haven. You'll end up with a real winter ghost town like Circuit Avenue in OB. Many people make other stops in town to shop when coming in for groceries. You shouldn't let that go away.

We need to move away from the attitude that change is bad and stop resisting everything that is put in front of us. If you don't work diligently to make this happen, you will be doing a huge disservice to the town of VH and its residents.

Respectfully,

Geoff Wheeler
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