

November 13, 2013

to the Martha's Vineyard Commissioners

I am writing to express concern about the size and scale of the proposed Stop and Shop in Vineyard Haven and its effects on the Town.

In your enabling legislation, it talks about protecting the character of the island. I believe that this building is too large and will impact the views of the island as you approach by ferry and be out of scale with the other buildings in the town of Vineyard Haven.

I believe it will also have a detrimental effect on the traffic and parking situation in that area. Because of Steamship traffic and the traffic associated with businesses on Main Street and its environs, there is already a severe problem in this area.

As Commissioners, and thus the island's regional planners, I believe it is your duty to look at the larger picture and to think about the consequences of this expansion in all its dimensions. It seems an excellent opportunity for you to look at and work with the Town to develop alternative ways to deal with ferry traffic (both vehicles going on and off the boat as well as drop-off and pick-up traffic) and the parking needs of the town.

I understand that this store and its predecessors have been at this location for a long time and this gives them the right to have their upgrading of the store considered. I believe an upgrade is appropriate, an expansion of this magnitude is not. Such a location would not be appropriate for such a large store today due to the congestion of the area.

Please take this opportunity to think and act wisely as planners and as those responsible for upholding the vision of the enabling legislation. That is more important than the request and pressures brought on by a single applicant.

Sincerely,

Kate S. Warner, Architect