

George and Jane Bean
18 Sisson Terrace
Tenafly NJ 07670

December 23, 2020

Re: Harborview Hotel, Edgartown

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Gentlepersons:

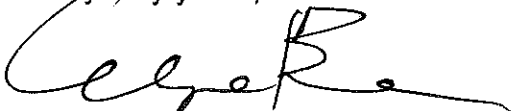
My wife and I own a home at 72 Fuller St. (AKA 50 Gaines Way) in Edgartown. We have been there six years; prior to that we had a time-share at the Harborview Inn in Edgartown. So, we've been coming to Edgartown for about 35 uninterrupted years; years that include our courtship, the early (easy) years of our marriage, and the years of our having children and their growth, who, during this time, went from infants to adults; the Vineyard is the story of our family; as it is for so many families. (My parents lived in Philadelphia, and their parallel family story took place on the Jersey shore – but there, especially in recent years, families come and go; a fundamental difference in the way these two different seaside communities feel. There, instead of being a part of that community, people use it for their vacations for a few years, and then find another place (with better restaurants.)

In view of this, we are strongly opposed to the development of the Harborview into something other than a calm, beautiful, hotel. Those qualities make it a part of, and therefore an asset to our neighborhood; but if it becomes a dazzling convention center, with expansive saunas and spas and the ultimate mixed drinks, a daily draw for its amenities and a nightly draw for its bars and restaurants; if it becomes a full-service resort rather than a quiet inn - then it will not be a good fit in our neighborhood.

Our concern is that slowly, incrementally, the quality of our neighborhood will be affected.

Perhaps, in your deliberations of the proposed changes, you should keep in mind the possibility of the unintended consequences of your actions, and be guided by the modest understanding of making such decisions in the Hippocratic oath: First, do no harm.

Very truly yours,



George Bean