

March 1st, 2021

Martha's Vineyard Commission Members,

On behalf of the Edgartown Board of Trade we urge you to approve the Harbor View Hotel's request to modify the Special Permit granted on November 5, 2008 and amended on August 15, 2018. There are considerable reasons as to why the Board of Trade supports the Harbor View in this endeavor, they include:

- Increased year round employment for MV residents, with benefits
- Increased business, impacting town viability
- Growth of a town anchor business
- Subsidization of employee housing
- Marketing reach for Edgartown and MV Island. HVH was recently accepted as one of three hundred hotels/resorts to be named to the AMEX fine hotels and resorts program.
- Contribution to taxes
- Support of local farmers and other local businesses
- Attraction of ancillary dollars that increase local economy/businesses
- Maintains the legacy by renovating the 130 year old historic Hotel
- Expands our customer base with conferences, group functions and weddings
- Develops apprenticeship programs with our high school in partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Lodging Associations
- Provides \$100,000+ in sponsorship of local functions and charities
- Supports green programs and technology, including efforts to reduce traffic and vehicle use. The use of electric golf carts is an example of this proactive thinking.
- Frequently offers their space to local organizations at no cost

We believe that a thriving Harbor View Hotel is essential to the Town of Edgartown and by extension island of Martha's Vineyard. We are not alone in this belief, the sentiment is shared by Edgartown Planning Board Member Fred Mascolo [paraphrasing](#) former Edgartown Selectmen Ted Morgan "What's good for the Harborview is good for the Town of Edgartown" and captured in the book, [Harbor View: The Hotel that Saved a Town](#) in addition to the countless news articles both in our [local papers](#) and in [national outlets](#).

We strongly support its growth and believe that Commission Members will agree with us on the undeniable benefit to the island in allowing this property to be allowed to modify their already amended special permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phil Hughes  
President  
Edgartown Board of Trade

Julia Tarka  
Vice President  
Edgartown Board of Trade