

To whoever it may concern:

September 13, 2022

I am writing to express my support for the StillPoint Project in West Tisbury, spearheaded by Thomas Bena.

A special meeting place to meet, discuss, learn and meditate on important topics is exactly what our community, and world, need in this ever increasing (and exhausting!) divisive, digital world. A place intentionally designed to encourage us to reflect on issues, our community, and our lives — in person, in real time — is exactly what we need more of. And based on Thomas' experience with the Film Festival, I am confident that diverse and thought-provoking speakers will be invited.

I have visited the current location, and find the re-purposing of the barn and preservation of open space to be ideal and respectful. Stillpoint aligns well both in vision and in purpose with its neighbors including Polly Hill and nearby Land Bank properties, making that area of State Road a place for enjoyment of nature and discrete gatherings.

I understand that there may be concerns about traffic and parking. We live just a few miles from the site and travel near it routinely. But the traffic study showed there would be minimal impacts given the nature and frequency of events. I also trust that Thomas' plan for a 40-car parking space while limiting tree clearing will be done responsibly. In fact, our son helped him on the property this summer and we were all impressed with the thoughtful approach Thomas took to landcare.

Once again, I am in full support of the Stillpoint project and believe Thomas has been thorough and considerate in his approach to this project. West Tisbury and the Island will be a better place with such a peaceful place of reflection and discussion.

Thank you very much for all your time, effort and consideration.

Josh Thomson