

To: The Martha's Vineyard Commission  
From: Barbara and Tom Israel

January 17th, 2021

Since 1993 we have been residents of 9-11 Starbuck Neck Rd in Edgartown. I am writing you today because of our concern that the Harborview Hotel is planning to expand its services to an extent that could severely impact the North Water Street neighborhood. We have cheered your creation of the area as a historic district and hope that you are planning to protect that initiative.

By radically expanding their spa and bar services and by opening it to non-hotel guests they are liable to exponentially increase traffic to the area. Also, we are personally concerned that the historic right-of-way that passes in front of our Starbuck Neck houses might be used by their trainers or customers for walking and running classes.

As for the hotel's evening events I believe it is crucial that they and their guests adhere to the same noise curfews

and standards that we are required to follow. And there should be penalties for non-compliance. Moreover, the Harborview should not be permitted to use a private North Water Street residence for commercial purposes. It is my understanding that the hotel has long owned a dock next to the Lighthouse which has never caused any problems that we know of.

If the Harborview is allowed to increase its outreach as applied for, our quiet, low key, historic neighborhood will change character immeasurably. The respectful, understated style of the Vineyard is what has attracted us to be here with our extended family for the last 45 years. Please consider limiting their requests to appropriate upgrades that will maintain the residential nature of the North Water Street and Starbuck Neck district.

Sincerely Yours,

Barbara and Tom Israel