



June 4, 2018

Paul Foley
Development of Regional Impact Coordinator
Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Foley:

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) has been assisting the Martha's Vineyard Museum since 2013 with cultural resource management and consultation as part of the project to relocate the Museum to the former Marine Hospital property in Vineyard Haven. The archaeological investigations have included intensive (locational) archaeological survey, archaeological site examination, machine-assisted topsoil stripping within all areas proposed for ground disturbance, data recovery, and construction monitoring. All of the archeological investigations have been conducted under a State Archaeologist's Permit issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and in consultation with the MHC and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah Tribal Historic Preservation Office (WTGH/A THPO). Following the identification of a Native American ceremonial feature during PAL's 2016 archaeological fieldwork, the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) also became a consulting party under the state's Unmarked Burial Law. The Museum, in consultation with the THPO, MHC, and MCIA, worked at that time to revise plans in order to avoid impacts to and permanently protect the area surrounding this feature. Because archaeological site information in Massachusetts is considered confidential, information about the specific location and details of the Lagoon Pond Bluff Site (MHC site number 19-DK-274) components are not part of the public project review.

Due to the identification of additional ceremonial cultural features in several sections of the project area, the Museum team, in consultation with the state and THPO, went to considerable effort to revise a number of proposed impacts by relocating construction or limiting the depth of ground disturbance in order to protect as many of these important cultural features as possible. To that end, the Museum, with PAL's assistance, developed a comprehensive *Site Avoidance Plan* that details the methods for the protection of archaeological features during construction and ensures that construction personnel do not inadvertently disturb archaeological deposits. The *Plan* was reviewed and approved by the MHC and THPO and will be part of the final project reporting.

Several options for revising the access drive approach were initially considered, including some that would have required the complete excavation of one or more ceremonial features. A proposed large drainage swale adjacent to the driveway was initially proposed in a sensitive area that also would have impacted a number of ceremonial features.

Francis, South Mountain Company

April 10, 2018

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The THPO requested that no excavation of any of the ceremonial features be conducted, and PAL also recommended that the important part of the Native American site area located along and adjacent to the driveway be protected through a grade change and additional soil filling (in the case of the driveway) and the relocation of the drainage swale to a cleared area. The revised access drive and drainage swale plans that were developed and are currently proposed addresses the Tribe's concerns and protects important and irreplaceable ancient Wampanoag cultural deposits.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Herbster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Herbster, RPA
Senior Archaeologist

cc: Bettina Washington, WTGH/A THPO
Katy Fuller and Bonnie Stacy, MV Museum