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December 29, 2020

Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission,

I am writing to oppose the proposed spa development and expansion at the Harbor View Hotel.

I was born on the island, attended Edgartown Elementary and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. I was involved in Girl Scouts, 4-H and St. Andrews Choir. I have spent every summer in Edgartown since I was a child. I currently support, numerous non-profit organizations; *The Vineyard Trust, Martha's Vineyard Youth Foundation, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Sail MV, Misty Meadows Equine Learning Center and the YMCA*. With my husband, Geoff, we own 63 Fuller Street which abuts the Harborview Hotel's wedding lawn and the new outdoor pool restaurant. We also own other properties in town. As an Edgartown native and enthusiast, I want nothing more than to maintain and promote the commerce of my cherished town.

Growing up in the late 50's and 60's things were different. There was a real sense of community. Neighbors helped each other out. Hashed out differences in opinions, values and beliefs. It wasn't a free for all like today. Today your neighbor moves in and never introduces themselves or shares their plans. They demolish the old house, build a new one, steal your view and don't care what you think. The mentality is skewed and selfish. Everyone wants a piece of the pie. What a shame.

The Harborview Hotel is following this trend. Each year, the beautiful neighborhood of Starbuck's Neck is being encroached upon more and more. A noisy outdoor restaurant extending service to the general public, operating late into the night within the confines of a residential neighborhood is insensitive. Further disruptions include a proposed full-service spa, again, catering to the public, increasing foot traffic, amplified music on the lawn every week ruining the quiet atmosphere and horse drawn carriages crowding already limited roadways. What happened to the Old Grand Hotel? A quiet retreat with rockers on the porch; an escape from the hustle and bustle of town. Now, it has morphed into a destination hotel with weddings practically every day of the week and traffic increasing exponentially!

The year-rounders who used to splurge for a nice lunch or dinner are not part of the Harborview Hotel's self-interested plans. What happened to being a good neighbor and preserving the charm and character of this quaint island? At this rate, the next proposal will be a casino. Maybe the Harborview Hotel should contact the Wampanoag Tribe and cut a deal!

Respectfully Submitted,



Nancy Thomas Caraboolad
63 Fuller Street
Edgartown, MA