

Statement made at 8-4-22 MV Commission Meeting for public record

Devon Pope <devon.l.pope@gmail.com>

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To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

My wife Rodianna told me you needed my statement sent. Please see below.

My name is Devon Pope and I am an attorney that represents the owners of 52 Teaberry Lane. I am also the grandson of the owner.

I am speaking to voice our opposition to the proposed build at 490 Edgartown Vineyard Haven Road.

My family has owned the home on Teaberry Lane since the late 70's, and it is typically occupied for 8-9 months out of the year.

We are not opposing the build simply because it will affect the solitude that all of the Teaberry residents have had since the culdesac was built, though it will certainly do that.

We oppose it because we feel that alternative options were not adequately explored in this process, and even though the hospital has stated a demand for a new nursing home facility given the islands demographics, it seems the need is more related to the hospitals finances, with the hope/belief that the demand will come.

We feel that, given the islands specific vulnerabilities to climate change, such a major construction project should only be done if it is absolutely needed.

Furthermore, this proposed construction will forever alter the island's longstanding hesitancy to allowing commercial projects outside of its three big towns, a change that can never be undone. If this project were to proceed, and in the coming decades this nursing home is under populated and underperforming like the current facility, what will become of those buildings and it's footprint? The ecological and societal damage could not easily be reversed.

We acknowledge that there may be a need for affordable professional housing and a new nursing home facility, but We believe more time should be spent exploring alternative options. The approval of this project would forever alter the layout of greater Edgartown, cause even more traffic at the most congested area of the island, and alter a large amount of full time resident's expectations of peace and quiet in their backyards. If such a project were to proceed, We would hope it's greater impact would be thoroughly reviewed with its collateral damage on the surrounding areas.

Thank you,

Devon Pope