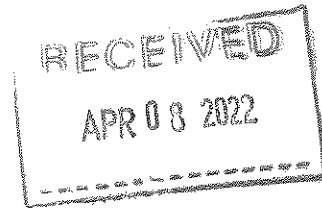


April 5, 2022

Mr. Adam Turner, Executive Director  
MV Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557



Adam:

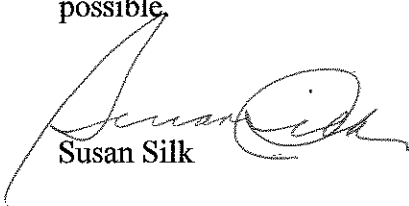
I am writing in support of the effort of Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. to create a bit of the needed solution for seniors here on Martha's Vineyard who can no longer safely be in their homes but deserve to spend a lifetime here on Martha's Vineyard – the place that they call “home.”

The project Navigator is trying to make happen is addressing the severest of needs – supported health care as well as a sense of community and connection. Without Windemere and without Navigator we would have nothing to meet the critical health care needs of seniors. In fact it is a miracle that the Navigator organization is willing to come to Martha's Vineyard given the numerous hurdles it must overcome.

Of course we need many more options on this island with a population that is increasingly aging. We need seniors to be able to downsize with a smile rather than a frown – or tears-- and move into an apartment that they can manage amongst neighbors with whom they can share a cup of coffee and where their children can feel secure that their parents are safe.

It is unfair for seniors to be forced to try to “start over” in a new location when everything they know is here on Martha's Vineyard. My sister and I moved here in our early 60s and had the energy then to meet new people, create a sense of connection and feel a part of the community. I would hate to have to try to do that again now in my mid-70s let alone in my mid-80s.

The MV Commission, loaded with lots of data documenting the aging of the island, knows all too well that it is critical that we approve the effort of Navigator of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. as quickly as possible.

  
Susan Silk