



Dear Mr. Foley and Martha's Vineyard Commissioners,

After attending the Planning Board meeting which ended in a referral to your board, and subsequently attending your hearing on the proposed project last week it became apparent that although well intentioned the public officials and their engineering firm are the only people speaking in favor of moving forward with this project in its present form. In their press to secure funding they have lost sight of the values we who live in and visit Oak Bluffs and Martha's Vineyard hold dear; our beaches, the beauty of our coastline and the rural character of our town. Those who suggest lack of community utilization of the North Bluff Beach are simply incorrect. While it is not the beach of choice for those seeking a daylong affair that we associate with South or State, it is a downtown beach that affords quick access for a short walk or a quick swim during a lunch break on a busy day, or a safe walk with your dogs, searching for sea glass while waiting for the boat.

That the public and residents first learned last week that the portion of the wall between the pier and the SSA dock will be a giant wall of rocks from the beach up and over the existing sea wall is indicative of the lack of public outreach by the proponents of this project. Where are the proposed beach stairs going to take us? Perhaps a water slide would be more appropriate.

There are myriad important details about this project that have changed dramatically over its evolution. The first quaint proposal is unrecognizable now. At the end of the day, changes made to this project without public input are its downfall. I think we need to slow down, take a deep breath and incorporate changes that address the concerns of the public.

I believe that if the funding sources were made aware of the unique powers granted to the MVC they would allow more time to get it right the first time. I would suggest the Executive Director contact the funding sources and endeavor to explore an extension to get it right.

Sincerely

Mark Wallace

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Wallace". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.