

Paul Foley

From: Tim Boland [tim@pollyhillarboretum.org]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 12:35 PM
To: Paul Foley
Subject: RE: Ancient Woodlands & Solar Panels

Dear Paul,

Amidst the backdrop of trying to open our new building Friday, I apologize for the delay in writing.

I have read Dr. Foster's comments and agree with his assessment. As a forest ecologist I am against clearing in this area as it represents a greater opportunity to mitigate climate change through ancient forest preservation. While numerous models show the benefits of solar power they never take into account that the existing forests; their carbon storage capacity, water filtration properties, and the abundant flora that is associated with them, is clearly worth preserving, not clearing for a temporary utility use. The proximity adjacent to the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest (which protects the rarest ecosystem in the entire Commonwealth) should throw a caution alarm about habitat fragmentation, the leading cause for the loss of biodiversity globally, regionally, and locally.

Additionally, years ago the Vineyard took steps to establish the Margaret K. Littlefield Greenlands to protect our aquifer. This property borders the proposed project of the Oak Bluffs Water District. This should resonate with the water district that this resource area is especially sensitive!

Vineyard land is finite. Projects like these should not remove our most valuable natural resources. I hope the commission and the citizens of Martha's Vineyard realize what a terrible loss this would be.

While solar power itself is admirable, this project is clearly in the wrong place.

Sincerely,

Tim Boland

From: Paul Foley [mailto:foley@mvcommission.org]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Foster, David R.
Cc: tboland
Subject: RE: Ancient Woodlands & Solar Panels

David,

I will enter your comments into the DRI 600 record, distribute a hardcopy tonight and post to the MVC DRI 660 web page. Thank you for participating in the DRI process.
Paul

Paul H. Foley, AICP
DRI Coordinator/ Planner
Martha's Vineyard Commission

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