



TOWN OF TISBURY
HARBORMASTER'S OFFICE
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August 4, 2022

Mr. Jay Grande, Town Administrator
PO Box 1239
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Jay,

As Harbormaster I recently reviewed the proposed Safe Harbor project in Lagoon Pond. I believe it is an ecologically responsible positive project to meet a current need. There is a strong demand for vessels to access our waterways. A simple way to illustrate the need is to look at our mooring wait lists. In Lagoon Pond alone there are 62 people on the mooring wait list. Town wide there are a total of 273 people on mooring wait lists.

My understanding of the proposed project is that deteriorated buildings in a floodplain will be removed, replaced by rack storage for approximately 40 vessels. Ten of the 40 vessels are currently in slips and will be removed from their current location and stored on the proposed racks. Vessels stored in a rack system are only in the water while they are being used. Customer calls the marina, vessel is removed from the rack and placed next to the pier. Customer uses the vessel and returns to the pier where the marina removes the vessel from the water placing it back on the rack.

In a rack storage system boats do not need bottom paint. Bottom paint contains heavy metals to inhibit the growth of sea life. Vessels stored in a rack system can't be lived on reducing the possibility of sewage in the environment. Vessels stored in a rack system are out of the water 99% of the time lessening the possibility of the vessel sinking and doing ecological harm.

I find the proposed project a positive addition to our waterfront. It provides an ecologically safer way to address the shortage of opportunities for people to enjoy the waterways with their vessels. The Select Board may benefit from a site visit to get a visual of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

John Crocker
Harbormaster