

January 30, 2023

Adam Turner  
Executive Director  
Martha's Vineyard Commission

I am writing to express my strong support for the development of the Southern Tier neighborhood project. As a resident of Scott's Grove, a municipal employee, and a member of the Island Housing Trust stewardship committee, I would remind the Commissioners how important this development is to the "working people": the teachers, police, health care workers and municipal employees who keep life as you know it going.

Reading some of the "other-ing" remarks made by Commissioners in an open public meeting is quite disappointing. The audacity of a community building is likened to sprawl with the idea that we should just pile everyone up in "an apartment building or two." (*"Working people elsewhere live in buildings that are closer together... rather than the sprawl that we're seeing here."*)

This aesthetically pleasing development proposes 45 units with 85 bedrooms on a 7.8-acre lot – that is hardly sprawl. A community building for your island neighbors and workforce, arguably a small piece of the entire development, is hardly a "*resort community in Florida*." I would also note that Meshacket Commons was approved by the Commission last month with even more "sprawl" and its own... community building.

I strongly urge the Commissioners to approve this development and to remember that we are all one larger community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Leaird

CC: Alex Elvin  
Rich Saltzberg