

**From:** [Jefrey DuBard](#)  
**To:** [Alex Elvin](#)  
**Subject:** Stillpoint Letter of Support  
**Date:** Monday, November 28, 2022 5:14:45 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I write as a West Tisbury community member and near neighbor to Stillpoint. I support the project enthusiastically. Stillpoint's belief is that more diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces make a more robust and richer experience for all. Unfortunately, few of these spaces of belonging currently exist on our island. We need them now more than ever.

We often like to talk about the character of the island, which I hear discussed frequently at MVC meetings and other forums of leadership. There are more voices and perspectives that are required if we are genuine in this commitment. We refer to People of the First Light in a land acknowledgment before we get to business. We kneel for BLM on certain days. Yet, we do not include a broad collection of voices and perspectives as normal practice in many of our places. More importantly, many don't feel as if they belong. I can think of no better location for this place of belonging than Stillpoint.

Conservation and land protection also creates a richer experience for us all. Currently, over 40% of our island is protected, including a significant portion of Stillpoint, thanks largely to Claudia Miller and Thomas Bena. What has been conserved at Stillpoint should be celebrated. Yet, and regardless of what we often like to think, they are not equitable, inclusive places. They exist in the exclusive and wealthy communities of the island; largely privileged and almost entirely white.

Stillpoint is a non profit organization. They will need to hold some events to afford the good work. If these conservation interests are genuinely committed, I suggest they commit to funding events, workshops and discussions that explore diversity, inclusion and past injustice Conservation practices. It seems to be a wonderful way to collaborate and help Stillpoint from needing to host money making events.

I ask the MVC Commissioners to look within themselves as leaders. To set a direction and a commitment to support the important and needed opportunity that Stillpoint will create for those who do not have space and forum.

Jefrey DuBard

Sent from my iPad

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