

January 27, 2023

To The Martha's Vineyard Commission,

My wife and I are residents of Chilmark and I have attended many of the MVC Zoom Hearings on the proposed Stillpoint Project. I've visited your website and reviewed in the public record those letters opposed to Stillpoint as well as those supporting the project.

I feel compelled to write another letter in support of Stillpoint because I strongly believe the Vineyard will be greatly served by its presence. It will be a gathering place that brings people together for curated events and it will cultivate a sense of community for Vineyarders and visitors alike.

The founder of Stillpoint, Thomas Bena, took a 12 lot subdivision with the potential for a massive land clearing and the development of more homes, and instead will protect it by creating a nature preserve, conserved for public use. The Land Bank was able to purchase 6 of those lots because Stillpoint agreed to 3 easements over their property allowing access, walking trails and parking.

Additionally, as a non-profit Stillpoint had been seeking to host weddings and other events which would bring in much needed revenue, but out of respect for its neighbors agreed to drop the request to hold weddings at the venue. I believe this demonstrates flexibility and foreshadows good neighboring on the part of Mr. Bena.

Lastly, I have heard a lot of concern expressed by Polly Hill regarding the impact of its proposed workforce housing, issues about noise and lights from automobiles. Stillpoint has demonstrated that they are sensitively taking into account these concerns by agreeing to no outdoor sound or music amplification and by withdrawing their offer to host weddings. I would think through proper landscape and plantings there will be a way to mitigate the concerns of Polly Hill.

I hope that the MVC will remain in dialogue with Mr. Bena to hash out these issues and details so that Stillpoint and all that it will offer our Vineyard community may come to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Glick  
Chilmark, MA