

Stillpoint Martha's Vineyard, Inc.
49 North Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

April 13, 2023

Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost, thank you.

We remain concerned that the proposals to set limits on annual attendance and on amplified sound do not have precedent in other MVC DRI decisions. If we are mistaken on this, we would appreciate clarification.

Nonetheless, we appreciate the streamlined simplicity of the attendance limitations proposed by the LUPC for Stillpoint at the April 3rd meeting. Although our traffic study used approximately 43,000 attendees per year and found a "minimal" impact, we believe that the 38,000 maximum proposed on April 3 will be sufficient for us to create the sense of vitality needed to attract donors for our mission. We do not believe our mission will be viable if Stillpoint is restricted to less than 38,000 attendees per year, or to less than 1,000 events per year. For this reason, we respectfully request that the Commissioners vote the Stillpoint DRI modification up or down with limits no more restrictive than that.

We also appreciate that in the proposed condition on outdoor amplification the LUPC considered accessibility for those who are hard-of-hearing, especially elders who may not have learned sign language or who are without access to other assistive technologies. Stillpoint will hold gatherings and classes both inside and outside, to foster connection with this special place. All our events will strive to follow accessibility standards set by the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights division for physical disabilities as well as communications disabilities.

Placing limits on amplification inside the barn, above and beyond a limit above ambient at the boundary, does not appear reasonable to us. In the interest of fairness and consistency, we ask that any limits imposed on sound inside of the building be justified

relative to similar limits imposed by the MVC or other governmental bodies on comparable Island organizations and institutions.

In response to questions raised at the hearing and since, we would like to clarify a few further points:

We are very much willing to cooperate with the Town of West Tisbury on any planned bike paths but are not offering a deeded easement at this time.

We are in the process of applying for a tax abatement from the Town of West Tisbury as a 501c3 non-profit.

We have been under the impression that any construction of small residential facilities for overnight retreats would require further authorization from the MVC. Beyond that, we are not offering a proposed condition limiting such activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The Stillpoint Team