

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Land Use Planning Committee (LUPC)  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: Vineyard Golf Club – Turf Care Center  
100 Clubhouse Lane, Edgartown

Dear LUPC,

When designing buildings and features for golf clubs, ball flight is a very important consideration. Ball flight at a Clubhouse is a minor topic as ball flight is typically away from the building with the tees located adjacent to the building. Conversely, ball flight for Turf Care Centers is a critical component as many are located in the center of a golf course. The central location provides for ease of access for turf maintenance staff and equipment to all areas of the course. Unfortunately, this also makes the Turf Center susceptible to errant golf shots. The design of the Turf Care additions at Vineyard Golf Club utilizes the new buildings to shield staff and equipment working in the courtyard from errant golf shots coming off the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway. The 13<sup>th</sup> fairway is located just west of the Turf Center with the 13<sup>th</sup> green being just north.

A second design principle for the Turf Care Center layout was to impact as little natural landscape as possible. We looked to locate the new buildings and impervious surfaces, in areas of existing impervious to reduce the removal of existing trees. The existing trees provide two important features – visual blockage of the Turf Care Center from the golf course and as protection from errant ball flight.

During the schematic design phase for the Turf Care project, we investigated whether solar panels could be utilized in the project. Our investigation led us to two issues – damage from errant ball flight and shading from existing trees. We quickly realized that the optimum site design, which incorporated the ideas of utilizing the building/trees as a shield and conserving as much existing vegetation as possible, was of a greater benefit than having the solar panels.

Vineyard Golf Club greatly appreciates your consideration in this matter.

Please feel free to call or email if any questions, comments, or would like to discuss further.

Very truly yours,



Tony Panza, AIA

[tpanza@rm-arch.com](mailto:tpanza@rm-arch.com)