

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

From: Kristin Letendre Smith <krletendre@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:14 AM
To: morrison@mvcommission.org; Oak Bluffs Planning Board
Cc: Kristin Letendre; wheeler smith
Subject: Tabernacle Project

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Attn.: Lucy Morrison (morrison@mvcommission.org)

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

Attn: Ewell Hopkins (planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are residents of the campground, living at 9 W. Clinton Ave.

Although we are fully in favor of the new Tabernacle roof, we are opposed to the portion of the project that includes an addition to the back of the Tabernacle, with backstage space, storage, and public restrooms. We believe this proposed project is too large: 10 public bathrooms, run off, and no waste water hookups. This could contribute to elevating the nitrogen in our ponds. We do not feel this is environmentally responsible. Additionally, these are our personal homes. We do not believe the use is necessary for the cost, maintenance, and purpose such as expanded events. Moreover, parking is a major issue for the campground and downtown Oak Bluffs.

Construction in a flood plain of a "~1,300 ft one-story addition with backstage space for speakers and performers, a climate-controlled room for the MVCMA's piano, 10 public toilets, and improved handicapped accessibility to the stage" seems to me to be foolhardy at best.

With the reality of climate change, and the very real possibility of more frequent high tide flooding and storm surges, intentionally building on a flood plain makes no sense.

Construction of a climate-controlled room for the MVCMA's piano and improved handicapped access to the stage can and should be done within the current footprint of the Tabernacle.

The MVCMA currently provides up to six portable toilets (which includes a handicapped accessible portable toilet). If the town needs more public restrooms, they should be added to a public area closer to the center of town and ferry landings, such as on or near Circuit Avenue.

Additionally, as noted in the 28 September 2020 letter from the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce, tourism brings over \$450 million annually in direct and indirect spending to the island, generating more than \$10.1 million in local tax revenue. As noted in the letter, the MVCMA is enjoyed by tourists at no cost. The residents of the MVCMA, a privately owned property, should not be expected to shoulder the expense of providing public facilities to those tourists.

Sincerely,

Kristin & Wheeler Smith

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