

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

From: Logan Gould <Logan.Gould@symetra.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 10:17 PM
To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board
Cc: Logan Gould; office@mvcma.org; francis.gould@gmail.com
Subject: Letter in Support: MVCMA Tabernacle

Dear Oak Bluffs Planning Board –

I write this letter in support of the proposed renovations to the Martha’s Vineyard Campground Meeting Association’s Tabernacle.

As many of you know, change is not only scary, but it forces us to reconcile what is unfamiliar to us. At this moment, the future of the MVCMA Tabernacle is in question because a select few fear the needed change necessary to make the Tabernacle accessible to all.

The proposal to update and renovate the Tabernacle is not only in the best interest of the MVCMA and its residents, but is in the best interest of all Vineyarders and visitors. The updates will undoubtedly make the storied gathering place more welcoming and handicap accessible for performers and attendees, alike. It is unfortunate that this much-needed change is in jeopardy due to a few outspoken opponents. While I can understand the fear of modifying or changing a historic structure, these modifications were designed to replicate how the Tabernacle looked and felt over 100 years ago.

As you may very well know, these proposed changes took years to develop. In that time, I have seen the MVCMA Board and the staunch supporters of positive change take pains to prepare, present, and submit countless ideas to update the Tabernacle to preserve it and make it more accessible to all.

Personally, I have spent my entire life enjoying the Tabernacle – whether attending/participating in art shows, summer camps, church, sing-alongs, wandering the grounds, preparing for the Grand Illumination, or attending graduations – and I am so hopeful that many others will be able to enjoy what the Tabernacle offers to our Community. As one of the original members of the *MVCMA Social Justice, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force*, among our goals was to make the Campgrounds more inclusive and welcoming to everyone and I believe these much-needed renovations will be among one of the many steps in that direction.

Now, in the 11th hour, these opponents are placing their own old-fashioned preferences above the good of others and future generations. I hope they can see the value of these changes and understand that change can be good and reconcile their fears. I am further hopeful the O.B. Planning Board will agree that these modifications will provide great value to us all and allow the renovations to proceed.

Thank you for your time. I deeply appreciate your consideration.

Very best,

Logan

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