

Received by the Town Clerk:

Date: 4/13/22

Application complete

Application incomplete

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Date: 4/07/22

Date Received by ZBA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant and Mailing Address: West Tisbury Farmers Market

PO Box 456, West Tisbury, MA 02575

Email Address: westtisburyfarmersmarket@gmail.com Telephone Number: 203 644 8390

Name of Owner and Mailing Address (If not Applicant): Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society

PO Box 73, West Tisbury, MA 02575

Map and Lot #: 25-1-1

Street Address of Subject Property: 35 Panhandle Rd, West Tisbury, MA 02575

Applicant is: Tenant (Owner, Tenant, Purchaser, Other)

Nature of Application (Special Permit, Appeal, Variance): Special Permit

Applicable Section of Zoning Bylaw: 3.1-1, Use table retail business in RU district, 8.5-2

Date of Denial by Building Inspector, Zoning Inspector, or Planning Board (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Plan: Must provide a plan by a registered surveyor showing the total property with the existing buildings, including the proposed project, all setback distances to be provided.

Plans: 2 sets of scaled drawings of floor plans that show total sq. ft. per floor (measured from exterior of wall), at least 2 elevations with one showing proposed height to ridge. If the project is an addition to existing structure please clearly identify proposed work.

Description of proposed project: Please attach a detailed narrative.

I have read the overview of the ZBA process attached to this application and completed all sections of the application cover page and therefore request a hearing before the West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals with reference to the above noted application.

Signed: Tucker Pforzheimer

Title(s): Manager

Application fee of \$200.00 is required. Date Paid: 4/07/22 ck # 1088

**WEST TISBURY ZONING  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
On Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 5:55  
pm the ZBA will hold a public  
hearing at the TOWN HALL-2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
meeting room (this is an IN-PERSON  
MEETING) on an application for a  
Special Permit from The West  
Tisbury Farmer's Market, Inc. to  
operate the Farmer's Market at the  
Martha's Vineyard Agricultural  
Society, Inc. at 35 Panhandle Rd.,  
Assessors Map 25, Lot 1.1, RU  
District under Sections 3.1-1 Use  
Table and 8.5-2 of the Zoning  
Bylaws.

**Interested parties are invited to  
send comments via email to:  
[zba@westtisbury-ma.gov](mailto:zba@westtisbury-ma.gov) or mail  
comments to: Zoning Board of  
Appeals, PO Box 278, West  
Tisbury, MA 02575. Please go to the  
following Town Hall website for  
information on the application.  
[https://www.westtisbury-  
ma.gov/zoning-board-  
appeals/agenda/zoning-board-appeals-  
agenda-5-12-2022](https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/zoning-board-appeals/agenda/zoning-board-appeals-agenda-5-12-2022)**

Please run ad for the following dates.  
**April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
Thank you. Please bill:

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West Tisbury Zoning Board of  
Appeals  
P.O. Box 278  
West Tisbury MA 02575

To the West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals,

The West Tisbury Farmers Market, (WTFM,) a federally reecognized 501(c)6 non-profit entity, seeks the approval of the West Tisbury ZBA for a Special Permit to conduct the island's oldest and only Farmers Market on the grounds of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, (MVAS.) This Special Permit would allow for the fulfillment of agricultural missions as outlined in both the charters of MVAS and WTFM, below, while adhering to the Town of West Tisbury Zoning Bylaws:

"Through education, community outreach and collaboration improves and promotes the production, marketing, preservation and enjoyment of agriculture on Martha's Vineyard including commercial farms, forest products, aquaculture, grazing, personal agriculture, food and ornamental industries." (**Mission Statement, MVAS Bylaws**)

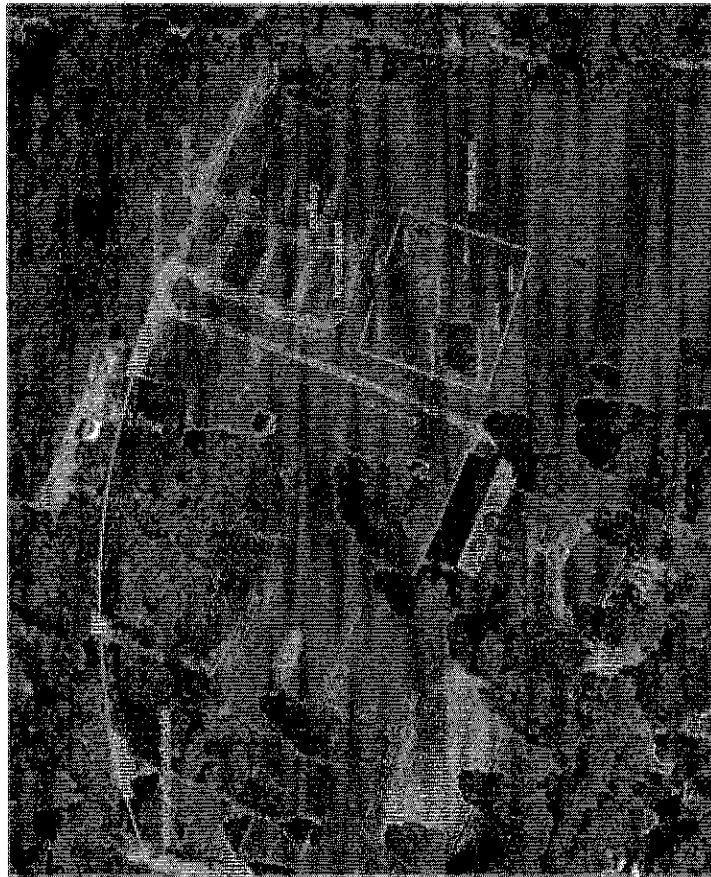
"To provide a marketplace for the sale of Island-produced agricultural products and food, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support." (**Article 2, Purpose, WTFM Bylaws**)

As per the Use Table in West Tisbury Zoning Bylaws section 3.1-1, RU zoned parcels such as that owned by the MVAS require a Special Permit for Retail Use, which is to be granted, "*Only in connection with agricultural use, including sale of produce and related products customarily sold by farms and nurseries.*"

The WTFM and MVAS exhort the ZBA to grant such a Special Permit to support the continuation of both our organizations' missions which exist for the betterment of our entire Island community and for the preservation of its agricultural heritage. Each summer since 1974, our group of vendors, representing the unique food (and fiber) ways of Martha's Vineyard, has gathered to share with the public the sedulous craft by which we choose to make a living. Due to the unprecedented response in recent years to our pursuit of our nonprofit mission, it is time for us to find a new home to accommodate both the public seeking delicious and local food and the Islanders seeking a place to market the fruits of their labor.

As testament to the power of the WTFM's community building, our numbers have swelled in recent years along with those of marketgoers, surpassing the capacity of our traditional home at the West Tisbury Grange to host this event safely and without undue strain to the surrounding community. In the years preceding the Pandemic and its accompanying health mandates, which gave us the opportunity to explore how market would look at the home of its original host, the MVAS, the Market at the Grange caused several problems alleviated by our subsequent move. Traffic snarled the entire town center and backed up to the West Tisbury Fire Station. Limited space at the Grange necessitated the WTFM turn away qualified applicants, community members whose wares would have represented a boon to their fellow Islanders, leaving them without a place to market their produce. Our relocation over the past two seasons has allowed us to work with the West Tisbury Police Department to improve traffic flow enormously, and offer space to over six new small business owners- island residents for whom the WTFM represents their single greatest source of income.

By granting the Special Permit for WTFM to remain on the grounds of MVAS, the ZBA will endow to its community a unique event in its finest form while adhering to the letter and spirit of its Bylaws. The Board will give their neighbors a space to trade the gifts of the land and sea, to experience the creativity, joy and grit which define our Island, and to ensure that a half century tradition can grow and change to accommodate our rapidly changing home.





Martha's Vineyard  
Agricultural Society

35 Panhandle Road | P.O. Box 73, West Tisbury, MA 02575

508.693.9549

www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org

April 1, 2022

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West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals  
1059 State Road  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Re: Letter of Support – Farmers Market

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals:

On behalf of the Trustees for the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, I write to ask you to grant a Special Permit to the West Tisbury Farmers Market so we can welcome them back to the grounds for a third season. Our mission is to "*support and promote the production, marketing, preservation and enjoyment of agriculture in our local community*" and nothing embodies this more than the Farmers Market. The market originated at our first home at the Grange and we couldn't be happier to have them back in the fold.

The Farmers' Market vendors have enjoyed unprecedented success on our grounds these past two years. If there is anything Covid showed us, it is how important local food is to our community. MVAS is so proud of our farms for meeting these needs and showcasing the unique gift of West Tisbury and this island.

Farmers are not the only ones who have enjoyed the success of this move. Visitors have overwhelmingly applauded the field layout and the extra space. Overcrowded shopping at the Grange is a thing of the past. The traffic situation has also dramatically improved thanks to the nature of our property and support of the WTPD.

The Farmers' Market special permit application is not to be deemed the Society's agreement that other current or future uses of its property, including for this or other agricultural markets, requires a special permit.

We think it appropriate that the Farmers' Market application be allowed, without conditions or restrictions. We kindly ask that you grant this application. I look forward to the ZBA's hearing and opportunity to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

Lauren Lynch  
Executive Director