



Martha's Vineyard  
Agricultural Society

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

508.693.9549

www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org

April 7, 2022

*Sent via email*

President:  
Brian Athearn

To: Brendan O'Neill, Vineyard Conservation Society

Vice Presidents:  
Julie Scott  
Garrison Vieira

CC: Whit Griswold, West Tisbury Conservation Commission

Treasurer:  
Robert Egerton

Dear Brendan,

Secretary:  
Robert McCarron

Thanks to you, Jennifer Blum and Whit Griswold for speaking with me, Rob McCarron, Elana Carlson and Tucker Pforzheimer, on March 25th. We appreciate you all taking the time to speak with us regarding the continued hosting of the West Tisbury Farmers Market on MVAS land burdened by an APR enforced by VCS and ConCom. Following up our conversation, attached please find a Memorandum issued by MVAS supporting our interpretation of the APR and why it allows for the Farmer's Market to exist on the grounds of the Ag Society.

Trustees:  
Daniel Athearn  
Joseph Capace  
Ruby Dix  
Fred Fisher  
William Haynes  
Chrissy Kinsman  
Tina Miller  
Kristy Rose  
Daniel Sternbach  
Allen Whiting  
Beatrice Whiting

We propose the following actions pursuant to our discussion on steps to mitigate the overall impact of the Market on the property:

Alternate Trustees:  
Michael Barnes  
Emily Fischer

Honorary Trustees:  
Clarence Barnes  
Robert Hungerford  
John Mancuso  
Eleanor Neubert

- **Relocate the Farmer's Market Vendors to the Vendor Area** historically used during the Fair. This area of the property was constructed specifically for this purpose and gives them access to water and electricity.
- **Move the public parking area off the Hay field.** Handicap and limited parking will be available in the Vendor Parking area, behind the Vendor Area. Additional parking will be made available off the APR, on the property behind Perimeter Road.
- **Construction of a new road to mitigate pressure on APR land.** We proposed building a road on MVAS property immediately abutting the APR to allow for off-site parking. This option was investigated in 2016 when we contemplated selling that property and realized the need to be able to access it independently from the APR land. We are actively revisiting and reworking these plans, however extenuating circumstances such as surveying, permitting, etc. prevent our ability to complete this before the commencement of the market season.



Martha's Vineyard  
Agricultural Society

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

508.693.9549

[www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org](http://www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org)

Brendan, MVAS greatly values our shared partnership and history. VCS's guidance has helped us to progress to where we are today and preserving this fellowship is of the utmost importance to us. However, the MVAS Board emphatically believes that the APR allows us to hold the Farmer's Market and it is in the best interest of the Farmers, the Market, the town of West Tisbury and the broader Martha's Vineyard community to allow it to continue here.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to resolving this issue. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Lynch".

Lauren Lynch  
Executive Director



Martha's Vineyard  
Agricultural Society

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

508.693.9549

[www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org](http://www.marthasvineyardagriculturalsociety.org)