

Dear Members of the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen:

Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard is seeking a letter of support from you for our application to be licensed as a new 70-bed skilled nursing home and short-term rehabilitation center, to be located in Edgartown, on the Tisbury-Edgartown Road. We have applied for approval from the Mass. Dept. of Public Health for Navigator Homes to replace the Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, which is closing. NHMV is a certified 501c.3. non profit organization, which intends to pay taxes to the town of Edgartown, and will not depend on town or taxpayer funding.

We are currently developing a five-house facility, based on the Green House model, which is a revolutionary care-delivery framework, whose core values are Real Home, Meaningful Life and Engagement, and Empowered Staff. The GH workforce — known as *zhabazim* — is an empowered team who are responsible for the full range of personal, clinical and home care activities, as well as the cooking and maintenance; they are committed to making the nursing home as much like a real home as possible. Residents will each have their own private bedroom and bath, with shared living space which encourages eating together and socialization, as the residents choose. Private rooms stand in marked contrast to the institutional aspects of Windemere and most nursing homes in the country, and the privacy will give residents more autonomy to set their own schedules for waking and sleeping, being with other residents in the common room and eating, or allow them to spend time with visiting family and friends if they wish. During COVID, the 380 GreenHouse nursing homes were notable for having a much lower incidence of infections, much higher levels of staffing presence and staff health, and much lower mortality rates when compared to traditional institutional nursing homes by state and federal licensing agencies.

We are particularly excited to be able to offer affordable housing to some of the Navigator Homes Nursing Home staff in the project on site, through the Affordable Housing project being developed by Martha's Vineyard Hospital; 30 of the proposed beds in the hospital's project will be reserved for Navigator Homes staff.

In light of the fact that the older adult population on the Vineyard has grown enormously over the last ten years, and now constitutes at least 33% of the population in each of our six island towns, we believe that this new nursing home is already desperately needed, to prevent any more families from having to send their loved ones to facilities off-island. We hope very much that West Tisbury, and the other towns, will support our efforts with a Letter of Support. If any of you have further questions and would prefer to have me or another Navigator Board member appear in person, we would be more than happy to do so at your next meeting. The timeline for letters of support to the Department is December 30th.

With warm personal regards, Paddy

Patricia W. Moore
Board Member, Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard
Founder, Board Member, Healthy Aging MV
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