

Stillpoint Narrative

Mission

To create a gathering place for people from all walks of life for educational programs—including but not limited to—classes, discussions, workshops, retreats, and the arts.

Core Values

1. education—lifelong learning in a variety of disciplines
2. quiet—cultivation of mindfulness, space to go deeper into the issues of your life
3. connection—connecting with other community members regardless of their beliefs
4. action—practical steps to help people live a more peaceful and harmonious life
5. nature—land bank trails and forested land are a very important part of this project

Origin Story

For a decade I've been feeling a strong desire to build a barn in the woods to gather our community.

When the idea first came to me, I was still running the MVFF so it made sense that this would be a barn for film. As the years passed and our search for the perfect piece of land continued, things became more clear. My interest in film had plateaued and I needed to do this for reasons that were not film-centric. I also realized that I don't need to build a barn, I could repurpose one.

In a world that is so divided and combative, the work I want to do at Stillpoint has never felt more important.

1. Stillpoint will offer community members, visiting teachers, and artists to teach and to share their talents and wisdom.
2. Stillpoint will offer a space to learn how to be quiet and still.
3. Stillpoint will teach people how to listen and how to have difficult conversations with people who don't share their beliefs.

Yes there are churches, yoga studios, etc. that share these values. But I hope that the barn at Stillpoint, and the accompanying walking trails, will be a truly unique gift to this community.

Site Program

Phase one:

Re-purpose the existing barn structure to house all events and gatherings as use group A3. The existing building has one restroom, add one additional handicap accessible restroom within the existing footprint to meet use group code requirements. Create ADA accessible entry into the building (*see floor plan for changes*)

Install a public water supply with a 100' radius zone 1 protection area (*see attached site plan for location*)

Create parking and entry drive for 30 parking spaces and 3 spaces for Land Bank parking (*see attached site plan*)

Possible future phase: Build a 20'x30' timber frame workshop (*see site plan for approximate location*)

Usage

This is an educational space that will be used 2-3 times each day in the summer. Each gathering will be in the 10-50 person range. I think one or two nights each week there could be as many as 60-75 people, 100 person maximum. In the winter, I think the use will decrease, but still be used several times each day for classes, workshops, and open hours where people can come and work on their own projects, share about them, etc. (*see attached nitrogen and wastewater load worksheet*)

Code and Permitting

Change of use through West Tisbury Zoning Board of Appeals (*Section 9.2 WT Zoning Bylaws based on 3.1 use table and 8.5-2 Non-Residential Uses in the RU and VR Districts*)

Martha's Vineyard Commission (*DRI checklist 6.1*)

MAILING ADDRESS

Stillpoint Martha's Vineyard Inc.
PO Box 142
Chilmark, MA 02535

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Barn located at 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road
on the older accounts at Eversource etc, they have it as 20 Princes Meadows Road

FEDERAL/IRS

EIN (Employer ID number): 87-1043229
effective date of exemption: May 17, 2021
date exemption was granted: October 29, 2021