

21, 2022

Planning Board members,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for your service to the town. Having to run to be elected and then giving the time and effort you put into your charge on the planning board is commendable.

I am deeply concerned by the now not so incremental creep of activity in the Village District of West Tisbury. It has been a slow and steady build, with the number of 'event permits' given out by the BoS going up and up and bigger in scope. I am grateful that the Farmer's Market moved over to the Ag Hall as I think it is better for everyone including our Village. Now it seems that what where small events happening a few days a week have become larger and more frequent and now need to provide food (trucks). There are families using the playground at town hall for birthday parties, which is a wonderful use of our Village District, and I would think is going to be more and more unsafe as the traffic increases. Trying to walk around town or up Music Street is dangerous and trying to get on or off Music Street is nearly impossible and again, dangerous, especially as people go too fast and do not pay attention. Further, the cars lining Music Street make it very difficult to get up the road. I know emergency services have struggled. More cars mean more people cross the road wherever they get out of their cars.

The solution is not slowing people down or PD, but inviting less people into the Village District.

We have a wonderful library that hosts many activities and events which bring people to town. We also have 7A, who have been a tireless supporter of the community. Dan Sauer gave a wonderful account of how much 7A (as well as Vineyard Grocer and Cronig's) have been an integral, year-round part of West Tisbury. The continuous approval of food trucks is hurting his business (both in VD and RD). They support West Tisbury, we need to support them.

It was said recently that West Tisbury is becoming a destination community and that the population has increased. If this is true, we should be protecting the Village District and not encouraging more business. We do not have to be a destination site. We get to choose what kind of community we want to have. I have no issue with (most) of the 'events' happening at the Grange. I like to support local things and if they bring people into town to support 7A and our library, all the better. I like seeing the playground packed! I am concerned about the increased intensity of use and the impact of that use. I am opposed to the consistent asking for more. And I am strongly opposed to the food trucks in the Village District. We should be supporting our local businesses that support us year-round. We should honor the intention of the Village District and why it was created and protected. People worked hard on the bylaws and people showed

up to town meeting to vote on them. Perhaps they will change, but until that time they need to be upheld.

The planning board had a subcommittee that worked diligently on a Big House By Law, aptly named Preserve West Tisbury. I urge you all to consider continuing on this mission to address these issues of growth.

Thank you.

Tara Whiting-Wells
Peter Wells