

Oak Bluffs Planning Board

From: Doug Thompson <w.douglas.thompson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board; Ewell Hopkins
Subject: Toilets at the Tabernacle

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

It is my sincere hope that the Planning Board will look favorably on the plans of the Martha's Vineyard Campmeeting Association to add a well-integrated Accessory Building behind the stage of the Tabernacle.

A key element of the proposed design is a complement of proper restrooms to serve visitors to the Campground. Those visitors include transient tourists during the daytime hours, as well as seasonal and year-round Island residents who come to the Campground to attend Sunday religious services and other daytime and evening events at the Tabernacle.

As you are well aware, in addition to the much-needed restrooms, the Accessory Building will provide climate-controlled storage for the Steinway piano, safe access to the stage for individuals with disabilities, and space for speakers and performers to prepare for going on stage.

I was born on the Vineyard in 1948 when my father served as the minister of the Edgartown Federated Church and the West Tisbury Congregational Church. Since 1952 I have spent my summers at our cottage on the circle that surrounds the Tabernacle. For several years in the 1960's I was a cook at Walmsley's Restaurant on Circuit Avenue. In recent years I have given presentations at the Tabernacle on the architectural history of the Campground and the Copeland District. I love this town very much, and I want to continue to see well justified and well executed improvements.

In the past I have served on the Board of Directors of the MVCMA and as chair of its Program Committee. I am proud of the long history of the Campground as a major locus for religious, historical, educational and cultural life on the Island. Our cottages, our programs, and the Tabernacle are vital parts of the richness of life on Vineyard and of the economic well-being of our town.

Please be supportive of the planned Accessory Building and the restrooms that will have such a positive effect on the community.

Sincerely,

W. Douglas Thompson, Ph.D.
4 Trinity Park