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Subject: Menemsha visioning
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Chilmark Board of Selectmen:

I am the owner of 509 North Road, directly across from the Home Port parking lot. I have watched the video of the visioning session that was part of your meeting last Tuesday and appreciate the constructive spirit in which everyone participated. I regret that I was not in Menemsha at the time and am constrained to contribute my thoughts in writing.

There were two sentiments in the meeting that seemed to meet with wide agreement which I and my family would also heartily endorse (1) that efforts to ameliorate congestion and improve pedestrian flow and safety (but not increase parking) are well worth considering, and (2) drastic changes that would significantly alter the Menemsha aesthetic and experience should be avoided and are unnecessary when the problems are most acute only a handful of evenings.

Widening Basin Road a few feet, if feasible, to improve traffic flow and provide pedestrian walkways seemed to several at the meeting to meet those criteria, and we would agree. Regarding the bus turn around issue, an idea came to me as I was listening to the discussion that I will throw into the brainstorming mix. I wonder if it would be feasible for the bus to loop around the back of the comfort station.

Regarding the congestion on North Road from Basin Road, in front of our property, and down to the Galley: ameliorating congestion (not increase parking) and facilitating safe pedestrian flow are good things. We would want to be assured, of course, that the Town surveyors are working from data consistent with our deed in setting the North Road boundary with our property. However that may be, we would be willing to collaborate with the Town in making use of some footage along the front of our property if that were in the service of a good plan. Cutting into the bank would require a stone retaining wall which ought to be consistent with the style of other stone walls in the area, and plantings on the front of our property which screen us from street traffic and the Home Port would need to be replaced. There are utility poles in the affected area, and while this terrain was being disturbed would be a good occasion for putting those utility lines underground. (The stone retaining wall on the west side of our driveway was installed 13 years ago. The wall on the east side of our property is "ancient" and not to be disturbed.)

We think the better plan for the use of additional space on the north side of North Road would be for a pedestrian walkway rather than moving parking to the north. We think that this would be safer for pedestrians and that pedestrians would be more likely to confine themselves to such a path than to stay within lines painted on the street. We think putting in angle parking would be a very bad idea. Not only might it increase parking spaces attracting more hopeful drivers, but, more importantly, drivers backing blindly out of angled parking spaces would be a significant congestion problem. Angle parking would also violate the principle of not altering the Menemsha aesthetic and experience more than anything else on the table.

Another Idea that occurred to me while watching the video: Perhaps it would be feasible for the Parking Shuttle to make a stop at the North Road - Basin Road intersection. This would give a convenient option for those with Home Port reservations or headed to the Galley to come without having to fight Menemsha traffic. Perhaps the Home Port could call this option to the attention of those making reservations. Having a safe foot path west from the intersection would make this option more attractive. The buses making a stop at this point would also reinforce the desirability of having the foot path on the north side of the road to avoid pedestrians having to cross back and forth across the road to take advantage of a walkway (which is a problem with a footpath on the

south side of the road in any case).

My son, Erich, is in Menemsha this winter and may be able to attend meeting and hearings. We look forward to working with you and town planners on developing a good plan in so far as developments would directly affect our property.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Ed Greenebaum