

Martha's Vineyard Hospital DRI

Public Comments at the Information Meeting Included in the Written Record of the Hospital Public Hearing

Excerpt from the Draft Minutes of the Commission Meeting

Held on August 24, 2006

Carol Slocum; 21-3 Beach Road across from the hospital requested her comments go on record. She said the presentation was very clear and informative. She is pleased that the secondary road has been removed from the plan; even though the main entrance has been moved about 30 feet to the south, she believes it and the parking area are in a wetland. **Mark Rowland** said that they have a certified survey with delineated wetlands and roadwork is outside the 100-foot buffer around the wetlands. Because an area may hold water, it doesn't necessarily qualify as a wetland. There is a rigorous delineation of wetland by the surveyor.

Victor Linn requested his comments go on record. He seconded Ms. Slocum's comment about the quality of the presentation. He noted that this is a massive construction project and he is concerned about parking during construction and the construction crew; he wondered whether there could be any provision written into the contract that says the gear has to be put away and not left on private property. Some of the abutters rent their properties and there will be a lot of noise and activity for 30 months. **Mike Chadwick**, senior project manager at Columbia Construction, said that the project would take approximately 30 months, with 3 months of site preparation work.

- New staff parking and the forced sewer main will be done before construction starts. They will clean up
- Back parking will be cleaned up and they will establish more uniform parking.
- The 1929 building needs work before it comes down.
- Access to the Windemere Road and to the front of the existing hospital will be maintained.
- After 3 months, activities will be mainly in the front of the building. They are planning on an off-site storage location adequate for major trailers and trucks.
- They are planning the logistics of construction and don't intend to park on Eastville, etc.

Bernard Adelstein, 34 Windemere, requested his remarks go on record. He said he's not opposed to having the hospital in their area but they do have a number of concerns. He is concerned about traffic at the proposed new parking lot across the street; crossing the street for employees could be a problem.

Gene Downing 8 Hospital Lane, requested her statements go on record. She said she would like four parking spaces. She has two now. She is concerned that the bicycle path will be too close to her gate. She said the bicycle path at the corner of Litton Lane is filled with cars every

day. **Mark Rowland** said the bike path would be a sufficient distance from her gate. The hospital is providing the land for the bike path and Mass DOT will build it.

Sylvia Thomas, Edgartown, asked that her comments be on the record. She is concerned about all the traffic going to the hospital. She wondered if, in a very bad storm, there would be an alternate route for getting into the emergency room. She said cars are parked everywhere which is very inconvenient and asked how many spaces when construction is done. The presentation was very good but nothing addressed emergency evacuation. **Mark Rowland** said that the short answer is that they've created a loop road and have tried to address emergency access.

Connie Adelstein, Windemere Road; said her concern is that three entities use the driveway: the public, the emergency vehicles and Windemere people. She is concerned that emergency vehicles will use the same entrance as the hospital, which seems like a dangerous situation.

Mark Rowland said it would be built as a road not as a driveway. There is a dedicated drive for the ambulances.

Marilyn Dakato, representing abutters to the proposed staff parking area, asked that her comments be on the record. She wanted to mention that the staff parking lot, only 15 feet from their house, would have significant impact on them. This family has owned the house since the 1940s. They would like to have their concerns addressed by the traffic study. They are concerned about safety issues and would like to see impact on their property reduced.

Patrick King, an abutter, asked that his comments be on the record.

- He said when Windemere was built, he had the Windemere business plan analyzed; the analyst predicted that in two years Windemere would be bankrupt and it was.
- He would like to see an independent traffic study paid for by an entity other than the hospital. He would like to see a 3rd party expert analyze what happens when the bridge goes up during an emergency.
- He asked about water retention experts.
- He asked why no hospital representative was on the drawbridge committee, the hospital being the largest employer within 500 yards of the drawbridge.
- He would like to see some long-term planning issues be addressed by independent parties.

Jim Norton said his family has been associated with the hospital since 1929. He asked about the committee the Commission formed to suggest alternate locations on which the hospital would be more accessible and better serve the needs of the Island. The hospital ought to be one of the few all-island institutions and respond to all-island needs. He asked whether there would be any presentation by the committee and an opportunity to respond. **Linda Sibley** said it was the committee's charge to see if there were alternative sites; the committee did not explore whether alternative sites were economically feasible.