



Town of Chilmark Fire Department

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Fire Chief David Norton
Assistant Chief Tim Carroll

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission
Chilmark Housing Committee and Planning Board
Chilmark Board of Selectmen
From: David Norton, Fire Chief, Chilmark Fire Dept.
Re: Chilmark Affordable Housing Project: "Middle Line"
Date: April 16, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to the Middle Line Affordable Housing Project in Chilmark, I am writing to you with public safety concerns of the proposed site. The Chilmark Fire Department, with myself in attendance, has strongly suggested numerous meetings, numerous times, that the Middle Line Project (and housing 'subdivisions' like it) will need a water source located on the site for adequate fire protection. It was specifically stated by me that a 10,000 gallon stored water source with a well is suggested. This will provide the responding fire personnel and apparatus a continuous replenishing water source for a rapid extinguishment of any fire that may occur.

Since the inception of the proposed site, there have been countless meetings regarding the planning of the project. To date, there has been no progress in implementing action towards providing resolution to my suggestions and concerns at Middle Line. There are numerous single and duplex residential structures that are proposed for the 21-acre property and while plans towards the completion of the homes are progressing, the necessary pre-planning for fire protection has seemingly been ignored. The closest replenishing water source for Middle Line is approximately 1.8 miles away; most of which is traversed by dirt roads. It is unrealistic to think that this current 'pre-plan' will be of any reliable use during a fire emergency.

If you plan to vote on this matter, the Chilmark Fire Department would hope that you base part of your consideration on the imperative necessity of a water source for this large family-residential project.

Sincerely,

David Norton
Fire Chief
Chilmark Fire Department

