

Via email



June 7, 2021

Mashpee Planning Board

Re: Mashpee Commons Development

To whom it may concern:

Housing Assistance is writing to commend the Town of Mashpee on entering into a development agreement with the Cape Cod Commission and Mashpee Commons for the development of 187 contiguous acres, which includes the existing mixed-use development as well as land stretching east of the rotary and west of Job's Fishing Road.

With the town having a seat at the table with the developer from the beginning, residents and stakeholders will have many opportunities for input as the development plan takes shape. Further, the Cape Cod Commission has an excellent track record of fostering broad community input to ensure that larger housing developments are pursued in a way that balances our region's critical need for housing and protecting our environment.

Given the Commission's strong track record, and the increasing severity of our regional housing crisis, Housing Assistance encourages the town to consider as much housing as possible on this property within the guidelines of the Commission.

Housing Assistance agrees with the Cape Cod Commission that the approach of creating denser housing developments in appropriate activity areas is better for the environment than traditional single-family homes on large lots, because the more clustered housing is together, the less land it disturbs, and the more cost-effective wastewater treatment becomes, among other benefits.

As noted in a recent Cape Cod Times article, the lack of housing for our workforce and young professionals is the number one obstacle to economic recovery and sustainability in our region. (See *Cape Cod Times*, May 15th, 2021, "Affordable housing crisis tops agenda at annual State of the Cape.") We encourage the Planning Board to move forward quickly and enthusiastically with adding more housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alisa Magnotta", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alisa Magnotta
Chief Executive Officer

