

To: The Chilmark Conservation Commission & The Zoning Board of Appeals.

It has been an interesting experience being a phone participant during your recent meeting regarding the property at 138 State Road. Even though much time was spent involving other properties – it is clear you all seem dedicated and involved, and I thank you for your work.

However, after listening to Reed Silva who commented at great length about what your commissions' bylaws are not reflecting, and after talking with Kara Shemeth, I'm wondering why and how you all permitted an 18 x 40 ft. pool, patio etc. to be approved in fragile coastal Stonewall Pond littoral land. It is clear something is very wrong.

Kara explained that the Chilmark Conservation Commission only has power to protect the wetlands. How can this be so? Who then, tries to uphold the "rural character of Chilmark"? If you are only dealing with wetlands, then you should call yourselves the wetlands watch, or something to that effect. The Conservation Commission should have a wider scope – a more varied and inclusive mission statement. What of the rare black racer snake the Biodiversity Works group has tried to educate we dwellers by the pond who share that fragile space with these creatures? What about the churned-up destruction of the driveway and land as all these proposed plans are implemented? The noise dimension alone will be a terrific nuisance – or more – to humans and wild occupants who hang on around the ever increasing pressures of human encroachment.

It seems your commission, perhaps fearful of lawsuits, advises and adjusts until whatever the land "owner" wants, the land "owner" gets. It seems to me the "land" always loses. (Who really protects the land?) I was heartened to hear a "No" over a firepit at Squibnocket. Why can there not be a "No" for a proposed pool at Stonewall, steps from the pond and the sea? It just makes sense to say "No" during these challenging times of climate change, resource availability and over development.

Please revisit this entire plan. The reckless gouging of the earth to create a pool, patio, outbuildings and to enlarge an already existing large house should be stopped. When is enough enough, and who, what commission, can be the arbiter

for land protection over and above human vanity requests? Can the Chilmark Conservation Commission conserve more than wetlands?

Thank you for your time and attention. Some "glitch" occurred during the 3/16 meeting. I spoke to Kara of this. I was unable to respond to the rushed public comments portion of your meeting, as were fellow zoom watchers; none of us are in favor of this project.

March 21, 2023

Thank you,

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Chilmark,

Freeburg 7 Summer St,
V.H.