

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL
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January 16, 2024

Select Board
Harbor Advisory Committee
Chilmark Town Hall
401 Middle Road, Beetlebung Corners
P.O. Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535-0119

To the Members of the Select Board and Harbor Advisory Committee:

My name is Bennett Goldberg, and I am writing to you on behalf of my brothers, Andy, Jon, and myself, Henry and Carol Goldberg's sons. The Goldberg family has called Menemsha and Chilmark "Home" since 1984, and as most of you know, we have been fixtures on and around Menemsha's beautiful waters, beaches, and docks ever since.

Andy, Jon, and I were fortunate enough to spend summers in Chilmark and Menemsha growing up, playing on and around the water in Menemsha, clamming in the pond, and squid fishing at night by the streetlight on the Texaco dock. Our family's interests and concerns for Menemsha run deep, and we have always tried to do our best to contribute to the local community as much as possible since first discovering this uniquely special island.

After our parents purchased Emmett Carroll's house in the late 80's, they continued to rent additional homes each summer for our growing family. Today, in 2024, the five Goldberg family members all own houses and property in Chilmark. In addition, we continue to support the local community by employing islanders during the summer and the off-season and renting 2-3 additional homes every summer (one in Menemsha) for support staff, babysitters, and medical caregivers.

In 2006, our father came to an agreement with the Select Board and Harbor Advisory Committee that allowed our family's boat, "Banjo" to dock on the channel dock. The prevailing sentiment (as recorded in the notes and minutes of the time) was positive due to the win-win-win for the Town, our family, and the three other residents who, due to Banjo's relocation, were taken off the waiting list and finally given slips. The terms of the agreement were another win-win-win for the Town, our family, and the commercial fishing fleet as the terms provided that: (i) our family would move our boat whenever a commercial vessel needed the space (thereby preserving the dock as "commercial"), (ii) our family would always pay twice the dockage rate over the transient slip rates; (iii) the Town was free to rent the slip if/when Banjo wasn't there; (iv) any improvements or repairs to accommodate Banjo would be paid for entirely by our family; (v) Banjo would not miss more than one summer in a row.

Having said this, I am writing to you because it recently came to our attention that there are ruminations about terminating the agreement after our father passes away. As you can imagine, our family was quite surprised to hear this because he has always maintained that the


agreement would be honored so long as we continued to abide by the rules of the agreement. This is the reason neither my brothers nor I put ourselves on any of the waiting lists for a slip.

The three of us are part of the last generation of 1980's island teenagers, before Martha's Vineyard and Menemsha's explosive growth and popularity happened. As we enter our 60's now and given the number of people on the waiting list for dock space in Menemsha, it is a forgone conclusion that we will not be able to get another slip in our lifetime.

It is the Goldberg family's hope that upon considering the spirit and intention of the long-standing, mutually beneficial arrangement the Town and our father made in 2006, and in light of our family's dedication to this magical place, that you, the honorable members of the select board and harbor advisory committee, will find it in your hearts to exercise some goodwill and flexibility by continuing to honor the channel dock agreement with us after our father passes, as he envisioned.

On behalf of Andy, Jon, my parents, and myself, I thank you for your kind consideration of this unique situation.

Sincerely,



Bennett H. Goldberg

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Jon Goldberg (email)
Henry and Carol Goldberg (email)