

Dear Chilmark Select Board and Chilmark Board of Health:

I wanted to follow up with you to review and update our plans for the 2021 Summer Series now that Covid restrictions in the state and the country have been lifted, the vaccination rate in Chilmark is 100%, and the active case count on the island has precipitously declined.

Below please find our revised proposal.

Kindly advise if this should be discussed with the Select Board on Tuesday, June 15 or the Board of Health on Wednesday, June 16? or both? We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this at your earliest convenience as we need to confirm our event schedule.

The plan that you approved was for the MV Book Festival's 2021 Summer Series to be on the grounds of the Chilmark Community Center on August 6-10 (five days) with 2-4 talks per day and a limit of 150 guests per talk. With changed conditions, we would like to consolidate our programming while still running a safe and more limited series and also lessening the impact on Chilmark.

We now plan to be at the Martha's Vineyard Museum in Vineyard Haven for our opening on the evening of Thursday, August 5 and during the day/evening of August 6.

Our revised proposal for Chilmark is the following:

We would be in Chilmark on Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8 only (2 days)

Each day would feature 6-8 author talks or panel discussions.

We would have two speaker tents with staggered start times. This approach will limit congestion and allow us to check people in for events with reduced crowding.

One tent would have capacity of up to 250 and the other tent of up to 150 people.

All events would be ticketed in advance.

We will live stream all events.

Book Sales: We will not have a book sales tent.

Food: We will offer prepackaged box lunches.

Parking: We will have a detailed parking plan including blocking off the Chilmark Library parking lot during its open hours on Saturday.

Masks: We will have a mask friendly policy for this outdoor event. We will urge those who are not vaccinated, including children, to wear masks. We will encourage authors, volunteers and guests to do whatever makes them feel most comfortable. We will be respectful to everyone regardless of their mask preference.

We look forward to discussing this with you and appreciate your concerns for the health and safety of the community.

best regards,

Suellen Lazarus

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