

TO: THE CITIZENS OF NANTUCKET

FROM: CONCERNED CITIZENS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNION STREET/
WASHINGTON STREET EXTENSION NEIGHBORHOOD

DATE: APRIL 8, 2004

SUBJECT: GREAT HARBOR YACHT CLUB

Once again, the developers have purchased a half page ad in the April 1 issue of the Inky and have 'run' the same list of inaccurate and misleading statements as has appeared before. On January 8, 2004 we CCFUSWSEN wrote a full page detailed response. Unless GHYC was playing a clumsy April fools joke on the Town by repeating the same list of promises which have already been refuted, here we go again.

PROMISE: "GHYC will permanently deed community marine services on the site."

OUR RESPONSE: A promise of a recorded deed is not the same as a recorded deed. Promises cost nothing. The public nature of these services is less public than the rhetoric claims. The discretion of the owners of Grey Lady Marine (GLM) will determine how public these services are. Since ownership has changed hands, previous customers of GLM have already been turned away and many others, who might question the wisdom of the GHYC proposed project, fear such reprisals if they speak up.

PROMISE: "GHYC will maintain use of the travel lift."

OUR RESPONSE: Expanding the travel lift way to accommodate Coast Guard and larger boats while drastically reducing the potential for timely removal and rapid on-site storage of 100's of boats in a storm or other emergency is a dangerous trade-off. The use of this travel lift will be at the discretion of the owners of GLM and that ownership has changed. Remember, members boats are hauled out first.

PROMISE: "GHYC will rent slip space to scallopers."

OUR RESPONSE: Thanks, but no thanks. Professional scallopers have stated that this is the most exposed and least advantageous place to tie boats on the entire harbor.

PROMISE: "GHYC offers to build dingy dock and boat ramp."

OUR RESPONSE: Where will a dingy dock go? Is permitting guaranteed? Who will use it? At whose discretion? A boat ramp on the south side of the project has been deemed environmentally inappropriate. Will the yacht club sight plan be completely revised to accommodate a full access boat ramp on the north side? This is an example of "let's tell the Town whatever they may want to hear and worry about the details later."

PROMISE: "GHYC will provide public access."

OUR RESPONSE: They have to. The law says so. A walkway such as GHYC proposes is required by statute. Should this important piece of waterfront be viewed by a few Townspeople from a promenade while looking at an exclusive yacht club or should it be used as a working waterfront with access for the whole community? Which public access scenario should we the citizens of Nantucket strive for as we look into the future?

PROMISE: "GHYC will do all this at no cost to the taxpayers?"

OUR RESPONSE: The cost to Nantucket will include exceptions for storm water processing, zoning concessions, use of public waterways and perhaps use of public land. As we all know, There is no free lunch!