



# Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

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April 25, 2019

Mr. Nat Trumbull  
11 Church Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

Delivered via email to [nat@teia.org](mailto:nat@teia.org)

Mr. Trumbull,

I am in receipt of your April 15, 2019 public records request in which you requested “a copy of all public feedback in its entirety received by the Steamship Authority to date on the Woods Hole terminal[.]” Your request further included “1) all email received to date at [whterminalfeedback@steamshipauthority.com](mailto:whterminalfeedback@steamshipauthority.com), and 2) all other written submissions received at the Steamship Authority's public presentations and by postal mail to date.” I am granting your request in full, although certain documents have been redacted in compliance with the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

Accompanying this letter are nine (9) .PDF files that contain information responsive to your request. I have summarized them as such:

- One (1) file – **Email\_feedback\_full\_redacted.pdf** – contains all emails sent to [whterminalfeedback@steamshipauthority.com](mailto:whterminalfeedback@steamshipauthority.com) as of the April 12, 2019 deadline for comments.
- Four (4) files – **Email\_feedback\_Bloomquist\_image.pdf**, **Email\_feedback\_Roslansky.pdf**, **Email\_feedback\_Butman\_attachment\_redacted.pdf**, and **Email\_Feedback\_Trumbull.pdf** – are attachments that were sent along with an email to the above-mentioned address.
- Two (2) files – **Blomberg\_letter\_redacted.pdf** and **Young\_letter\_redacted.pdf** – contain the letters received via U.S. Mail.
- One (1) file – **comment\_cards\_redacted.pdf** – contains the comment cards received at the Authority's community presentations.
- One (1) file – **SMART\_Petition\_signatures\_1-1027\_on\_12April2019\_Redacted.pdf** – contains the petition signatures submitted by the SMART group as an attachment to an email.

(continued)

Exemption (c) – The Privacy Exemption

In all the above-mentioned files, I have redacted the address, hometown, phone numbers and email addresses of any individuals who submitted comments to the Authority or whose personal information was otherwise included in said comments. I have performed said redactions pursuant to Exemption (c), the “Privacy Exemption,” of the Public Records Law, G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(c). The exemption limits its application to “personnel and medical files or information; also any other materials or data relating to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” The application of this exemption as it applies to requests that implicate privacy interests limits its application to “intimate details of a highly personal nature.”

According to “A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law,” published by Secretary of State William F. Galvin, a two-step analysis is necessary: first, determine whether the information constitutes an “intimate detail” and, second, determine whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the privacy interest associated with the disclosure.

I find that the addresses, home towns, phone numbers, and email addresses noted above constitute “intimate details” that exempts the materials from disclosure. A person of normal sensibilities would not conclude that, by answering a solicitation for public feedback on a public building project, their addresses, home towns, phone number and/or email address would be subject to disclosure; furthermore, all are items that individuals could conceivably have a vested interest in maintaining confidential.

Please also be advised that you have the right to appeal this decision to the Supervisor of Public Records under Mass. G.L. c. 66, sec. 10A(a), and the right to seek judicial review of this decision by commencing a civil action in Superior Court under Mass. G.L. c. 66, sec. 10A(c).

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [sdriscoll@steamshipauthority.com](mailto:sdriscoll@steamshipauthority.com) or by calling (508) 548-5011, ext. 302.

Thank you,



Sean F. Driscoll  
Communications Director and Records Access Officer  
Woods Hole, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority

cc: Terence Kenneally, general counsel and records access officer