

**From:** Patrick Ahearn  
**Subject:** August 9 ,2018 PlanningBoard Presentation  
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Please forward my thoughts in regard to the Town of Aquinnah DCPC as I cannot attend this evening due to a conflict . My overview is that the Town Boards including the Planning Board ,Zoning Board of Appeals and the Conservation Commission have used the Town's DCPC designation to override the Towns bylaws and in effect interpret the rules and regulations as the members see fit .This has caused great concern within the Architectural , Construction and Legal Community. Even if an individual adheres to certain Town Bylaws for a project , the owner is subject to the whims of the various Boards due to this "Superpower " that is being exerted under the guise of the DCPC . No other Island Town operates this way. People need to be assured that if they follow a clear and documented process that they will have a fair and reasonable expectation that they and their projects will be embraced by the Town and it's Boards. Currently , anyone even thinking about investing in the Community or improving their or a potential property clearly thinks long and hard if in fact it makes any sense . This is due to the challenging and unknown approval process . The DCPC was put in place over 20 years ago is response to the anti "Trophy House" movement in Aquinnah and no longer serves this purpose . The existing DCPC and its overreaching use has negatively impacted the tax base in the Town and the Real Estate values associated with it. Property values are significantly lower in Aquinnah than the adjoining Town of Chilmark . In Chilmark the more recent ZONING change deals reasonably with the size of houses in that community in a written and documented set of rules and regulations that are clearly understood and not subject to the implied "Superpower " under the guise of a DCPC that the Aquinnah boards use to the detriment of all who come before them. Therefore , the DCPC designation needs to be withdrawn immediately and the Town Boards need to reevaluate the current bylaws to reflect a much more straight forward review process . In doing so more people would consider investing in the Community and in turn increase the Tax Base as well as an enhanced Community imagery. Respectfully Submitted , Patrick Ahearn F.A.I.A. Architect , Homeowner , Oxcart Road , Aquinnah