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Mr. Alex Elvin
Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

by email: elvin@mvcommission.org

Dear Mr. Elvin,

I am contacting the Martha's Vineyard Commission to express support for the pending proposal of Susannah and Brian Bristol to rebuild their Vineyard Haven home. We have been neighbors of the Bristol's since 2005 and greatly appreciate their loving care of 1133 Main Street as well as their committed involvement to maintaining the greater West Chop community, both before and since our becoming neighbors. I don't know a family who has shown greater interest in retaining the architecture and ambiance of West Chop which includes their passion for the health of tree canopy, beach habitat, and community structures.

With regard to MCC's mandate to preserve the Island's diverse architecture, a goal our family supports, I want to stress the importance of achieving the intended outcome. The Bristol's plan to reproduce the architecture of what currently exists, albeit with some significant modifications that bring the house in greater conformity to zoning and building code, seems like the ultimate win for both the Commission and the community. It is an expensive endeavor and I am thrilled with their willingness to do it.

The benefits are numerous: there is no proposed change in architectural style, there is a modest reduction in scale, the building is brought to code and eliminates functional obsolescence (heat, A/C, old wiring) while providing a safer environment for the inhabitants (removing lead, mold, asbestos and dry rot). This is a far preferable outcome to the house falling into further ill repair, far better than seeing a renovation that eliminates the beautiful detail of the existing house (windows, shingled roof, mature trees) all of which could happen with a new owner or lesser renovation.

Approval of the Bristol's plan for rebuilding, which necessitates demolition, achieves the MCC's goal of retaining the Islands diverse architecture well into the future. I believe authorizing this plan sets the gold standard by which the rebuilding of other Island structures must meet. Not approving this plan casts into question what will happen to this house, how it will be maintained, how the architecture will be altered in the future, which could easily occur.

Our family is fully supportive of the Bristol proposal.

Warm regards,

Jim Hoffmann

cc: gsourati@souratigroup.com

