

July 10, 2022

Dear Mr. Elvin,

My name is Michael Levandowski. My wife April and I have been full time residents of Martha's Vineyard since 1988 and we live in the William Street historic district. We have been friends with Susannah and Brian Bristol for many years. We have spent time at their Soundside West Chop home, located at 1133 Main Street, a property owned by their family for over 100 years.

I was a member of the William Street Historic Commission for years and reviewed many projects. The challenge for me was always the same, preserve the inheritance of the district while considering the requests of the owners. Is it the feel or the fabric that makes a property special enough to consider protecting it? I called the Bristol's to scheduled time to review their plans, look at the existing house and walk the property. It's a great and beautiful family home that has been an important part of their family for generations, but it is also a 100-year-old house built on log piers that exhibit the short comings of a house of that age. The short comings include code issues, insufficient insulation, not winterized, lead paint, black mold, asbestos, decaying infrastructure, energy inefficient and health and safety issues. The Bristol's request is an example of a project that strongly supports building an entirely new house that faithfully preserves the feel of Soundside verses requiring that they attempt to preserve the actual fabric of the existing structure. We feel that architect Paul Weber's building design replicates the design of the original structure and is strikingly faithful to original. We fully support their request to build a new version of Soundside, incorporating modern technologies, energy efficiencies that provide a safe and heathy home, recreating Soundside as a new year-round structure that will look as if it has always been there.

Thank you for enabling the Bristol's to proceed with their plans.

Sincerely,

Michael & April Levandowski
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