

1133 Main Street

tom@saltworks.com

Tue 7/19/2022 1:30 PM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: Christine Varney <cvarney@cravath.com>;

Mr. Alex Elvin
Martha's Vineyard Commission
The Stone Building
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Email: elvin@mvcommission.org

Dear Mr. Elvin,

We write in support of Susannah and Brian Bristol's application to rebuild their house at 1133 Main Street in the West Chop neighborhood of Vineyard Haven.

Within a stone's throw of our home at 1032 Main Street, which was completely rebuilt in 2013-2015, there are a handful of homes which have been rebuilt during the past couple of years. Each of these has been respectful of the West Chop vernacular and are often virtually identical to the original homes. Others are new designs but look like they may have been here since the early 1900's. This is because of the hard work and dedication of the various zoning and reviews that occur around these rebuilds, including the work of the Martha's Vineyard Commission. For this, we are extremely appreciative.

Many of West Chop's original homes were built for summer use only and are not insulated, lack heating and cooling systems, and have limited and leaky plumbing which must to be drained during colder months. Many of these homes were built as temporary structures on temporary foundations, often with additions over the years that fail to adhere to modern building and safety codes.

We have known for years about Susannah and Brian's wish for a year-round house that would be safe, well-built, properly insulated, and supported with modern plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems. This would allow them to use their house throughout the year, even in the coldest and harshest of months. I love the Bristol's current home, both when viewed by foot when we are out walking and by sea when we are out sailing. We have watched as they have explored how best to rebuild their beloved home so that it can be used year-round. We were thrilled to see what their architect, Paul Weber, designed. Mr. Weber has done work in West Chop, including the West Chop Club Casino, and is sensitive to the architecture and overall plan and flow of West Chop.

The look and feel of the new design is both evocative of the original but is smaller in scale which actually makes it blend in better with the neighboring houses. The new design is not only beautiful, but looks like it could have been there when the original house was first built. The new design fits in perfectly with the immediate neighborhood and the larger West Chop neighborhood and is exactly the type of rebuild that we should be encouraging.

As a family, the Bristol's are known in the community as conservationists and the thought and care that they have put into this project reflects this. The design they have proposed is beautiful, respectful of the past, sensitive to its surroundings, and looks as though it could have been there forever. We are appreciative of the fact that they are creating a such a thoughtful new home – one that will serve their family for the next 100 years.

We respectfully request that the Martha's Vineyard Commission approve this project.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Graham and Christine Varney
1032 Main Street
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568