

121 Iroquois Avenue
Tisbury, Massachusetts 02568

July 17, 2022

Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

RE: New construction at 1133 Main Street

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Brian and Susannah Bristol have applied for approval to replace their existing house at 1133 Main Street in West Chop with a newly constructed house that, among other things, would enable them to live full-time on the Vineyard. My wife, Mary Wagner, and I are neighbors of the Bristols and have long had the pleasure of knowing them. We enthusiastically urge the Commission to approve the new construction.

The current house, while outwardly attractive, was built as a summer residence without the necessary structural elements to enable it to withstand the decades of Vineyard weather at the shoreline. To attempt to prop up this structure would take a massive effort and would still not yield a house suitable for year-round residence.

The Bristols have long been leaders in the West Chop community, especially with respect to landscaping, environmental preservation and maintaining the character of the West Chop geography. Susannah currently serves as a trustee of the West Chop Trust, which has as a purpose "to preserve the existing character of West Chop" and "to preserve and enhance the beauty and semi-isolation of the Trust property." She has also taken on similar responsibilities for the larger Vineyard community through her service, among other activities, as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and a member of the Vineyard Haven Planning Commission.

In short, the Bristols have demonstrated a life-long commitment to supporting the natural and historic character of Martha's Vineyard.

The planned new construction by the Bristols would enable them to live year-round on the Vineyard and would provide a structure that is aesthetically pleasing and fully in keeping with the traditions and character of the Vineyard. They have earned the trust and respect of their neighbors for maintaining such high standards for historic preservation. They deserve the opportunity to replace an unsustainable structure with a most fitting residence.

My wife and I applaud the Bristol proposal and believe it is worthy of the full support of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Clark McFadden II