1. DESCRIPTION

1.1 Owner/Applicant: Island Elderly Housing, Inc. (Peter Freeman, agent)

1.2 Project Location: 38 Wing Road (Map 17, Lot 105), Oak Bluffs (0.83 acres)

1.3 Proposal: Demolition of a house listed in MACRIS (retroactive), and construction of five age-restricted affordable rental units.

1.4 Zoning: The property is located in the Residential 2 (R2) District.

1.5 Local Permits: The applicant has applied for a comprehensive permit under Chapter 40B, including waivers in regard to Oak Bluffs Zoning Bylaw sections 3.1 (Principal Uses) and 4.2.4 (More than One Dwelling on One Lot). The MA Department of Housing and Community Development (the subsidizing agency for the project) issued a Project Eligibility Letter in August 2021.

1.6 Surrounding Land Uses: Other residential uses in the R2 and R2 Districts.

1.7 Project History: The MVC reviewed Aidylberg 2 (DRI 569) in 2003, allowing for the construction of five units of elderly housing under the provisions of Chapter 40B. Aidylberg 1 also included five units. The approval for Aidylberg 2 was extended to September 2007 and both Aidylberg 1 and 2 (4,275 ft² and 4,578 ft², respectively) were completed in 2006.

Prior to the DRI 569 review, former property owner Marguerite Bergstrom subdivided her property on Wing Road, retaining one lot for her house, and gifting two other lots to IEH for the purpose of providing elder housing. She retained the right to live in her house until her death, after which that lot would also be given to IEH. Bergstrom died in 2003, and the house was last occupied in 2015.

The former 1.5-story, three-bedroom, 1,200 ft² house was constructed around 1900 and is listed in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). The MACRIS report from 1979 describes the style of the house as wood-frame construction, with unpainted shingles, gable dormers, a side addition, and covered front porch. The report states that the house “is significant as part of the continued expansion of Cottage City (Oak Bluffs) as a resort and year-round community.”

The Oak Bluffs Building Department issued a demolition permit for the house in October 2019 without referring the project to the MVC. The permit would have expired in November 2020, but local permits were tolled during the MA Covid state of emergency. The Building Department stated in July that it had informed IEH in early 2021 that the project required MVC review, but the house was demolished in May without being referred. The applicant has indicated there may have been some confusion in 2019, since version 13 of the DRI checklist, which was in place at the time, included a threshold of 1900 for demolitions. However, version 13 of the checklist also required mandatory review for buildings listed in MACRIS.
Island Elderly Housing had originally pursued a special permit for Aidylberg 3, but withdrew its application in April 2021, in favor of a comprehensive permit under Chapter 40B. The comprehensive permit application was submitted in September 2021.

1.8 **Project Summary:** The proposal is to demolish (retroactively) the house at 38 Wing Road, along with a garage and outbuildings, and construct phase three of the Aidylberg elder housing project. The project will include a single L-shaped building with five one-bedroom units of age-restricted rental housing affordable to households earning up to 80% of the Area Median Income. Each unit, as well as a community room and laundry room, will be located on the ground floor. The building will include attic space and a small basement, both of which will be used for mechanical/HVAC, electrical, and plumbing equipment, along with fire suppression equipment and pipes.

The proposed building will have a footprint of 6,809 ft², with 14,964 ft² of parking and paved area, and 14,409 ft² of open (grass) area, amounting to 19%, 41%, and 41% of the lot size, respectively. Aidylberg 1 and 2, which are located on separate lots, each include five units, so the total number of units in the development will increase from 10 to 15. The total number of parking spaces will increase from 10 to 20.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 **DRI Referral:** Oak Bluffs Zoning Board of Appeals, October 12, 2021

2.2 **DRI Triggers:** 8.1a (Demolition of a building listed in MACRIS), 4.1 (Multiple residential units – Checklist 14A includes an exemption for deed-restricted housing with certain nitrogen reducing features), 3.1h (Parking for 10 or more vehicles)

2.3 **LUPC:** January 31, 2022

2.4 **Public Hearing:** Not yet scheduled

2.5 **Application Fee:** IEH has requested a waiver of the DRI application fee, since it is a registered nonprofit.

3. **PLANNING CONCERNS**

3.1 **Water and Wastewater:** The property is located within the Farm Pond and Oak Bluffs Harbor watersheds, both of which are impaired. The Oak Bluffs Board of Health has approved plans for a MicroFASST Innovative/Advanced (I/A) system capable of handling 1,500 gallons per day.

3.2 **Stormwater and Drainage:** A drainage plan designed for a 25-year storm shows 22 StormTech storage chamber units in three clusters on the property, as well as a new catch basin and existing drainage pit south of the proposed building. An existing cesspool will be abandoned and filled in.

3.3 **Island Housing Needs:** The project will create five additional units of age-restricted affordable housing at the Aidylberg development, bringing the total to 15. IEH currently has four elder-housing developments, at Hillside Village and Love House in Tisbury, and Woodside Village and Aidylberg Village in Oak Bluffs, and here about 500 people on the waitlist.

3.4 **Energy:** The applicant plans to meet or exceed International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) standards for the building envelope, and to install Energy Star compliant propane air conditioning
units. The applicant has argued that electric heat pumps do not work as well in cold weather, but is willing to use heat pumps if required by the MVC. (Documentation as to the ineffectiveness of heat pumps in cold weather was not provided.) The comprehensive permit application states that there will be no dishwashers in any of the kitchen units or common areas, and only one washing machine and dryer for the development. Daylighting of building corridors and motion sensors will be used to reduce lighting needs and energy use.

3.5 **Traffic and Transportation:** The project will utilize existing access via Aidylberg Way, and will include 10 new parking spaces (two per unit), including two handicapped-accessible spaces. Aidylberg 1 and 2 currently have a total of 10 spaces. A traffic analysis has not been conducted. The property is located on the VTA bus line.

3.6 **Character and Identity:** The applicant has stated that the cost of restoring the former house rather than demolishing, was extremely high and would only have created up to two elder housing units compared to the five proposed. The applicant has not provided documentation as to the cost of renovation versus demolition. No portions of the house were salvaged.

The proposed development will be highly visible from Wing Road, with minimal vegetative screening. The proposed building will be 27’4” at the highest ridge Elevations. Elevations and a rendering have been provided.

3.7 **Economic Development:** The applicant does not expect any increase in the number of employees as result of the project. A financial pro forma for the project, submitted as part of the comprehensive permit application, has been provided.

3.8 **Lighting and Landscape:** A lighting plan shows pole-mounted lighting at four locations in the proposed parking lot, with porch lighting or decorative sconces at 32 locations around the building. The applicant has stated that the fixtures will be Dark-Sky compliant, and the applicant’s architect has stated that the pole lighting can be programmed to not shine toward neighboring properties. Fixture types and spec sheets have been provided. A landscape plan has not been provided.