

# Re: DRI 718 - 7 Arlington

Lisa Kim <lk.magic5@gmail.com>

Wed 6/22/2022 6:27 PM

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

Cc: Lucy Morrison <morrison@mvcommission.org>; Eunu Chun <eunuchun@gmail.com>;

Dear Alex,

I realized that the MVC does not know anything about our family, and I imagine that it's impossible to make a decision that personally affects someone without knowing more about them. I want to share three more things with the MVC about our family that may be helpful when they think about the size and how we plan to use the house; 1.) our primary residence is an apartment, 2.) we have three semi-adult children, who will hopefully have families of their own, and 3.) my husbands parents will live with us when the time comes.

Many thanks,

Lisa Kim & Eunu Chun

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 22, 2022, at 5:14 PM, Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org> wrote:

Thanks, Lisa. We will add this to the record.

Alex

Alex Elvin  
Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Coordinator  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
The Olde Stone Building  
33 New York Avenue  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
(774) 563-5363

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**From:** Lisa Kim <lk.magic5@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 2:18 PM

**To:** Alex Elvin; Lucy Morrison

**Cc:** Eunu Chun

**Subject:** Re: DRI 718 - 7 Arlington

MVC,

I realized I sent the email from an old email address, please use this current address [lk.magic5@gmail.com](mailto:lk.magic5@gmail.com).

We also want to share photos from 1942 from the Friedrichs', the prior owner of 7 Arlington. The rest are photos of the current gardens which I hope to replicate.

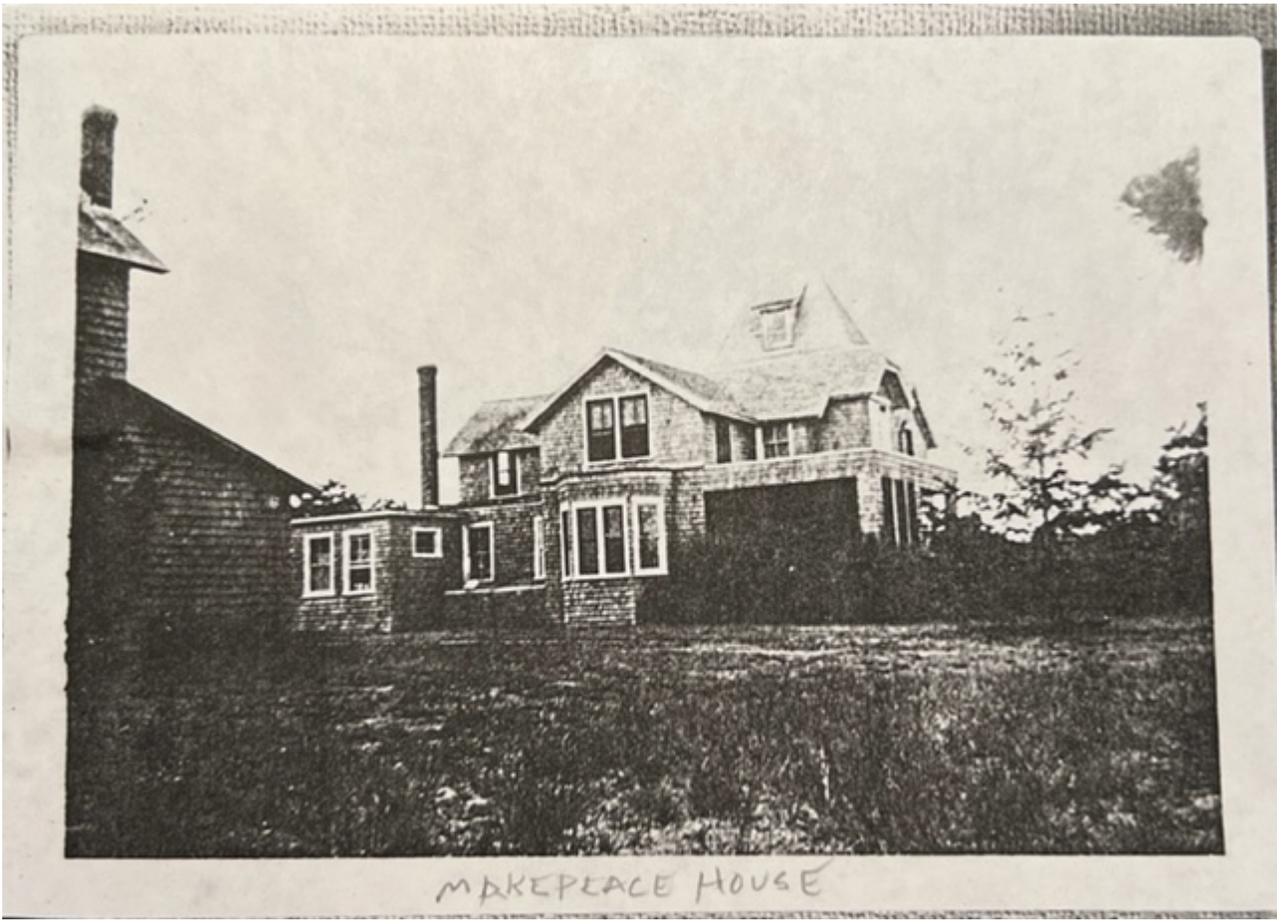
Thanks, again,

Lisa Kim & Eunu Chun

7 Arlington



11 Arlington



MAREPEACE HOUSE





On Jun 21, 2022, at 1:57 PM, Lisa Kim <[kimchun@me.com](mailto:kimchun@me.com)> wrote:

Dear Martha's Vineyard Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts while you make your final decision about the demolition of 7 Arlington. We appreciate the mission of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, we honor your service to the community, and admire the care that you put into each decision. With that same spirit in mind, we spent a lot of time choosing an architect that we feel understands homes like ours, respects Martha's Vineyard history and the East Chop aesthetic. We are delighted to have Chuck Sullivan guiding us through this process and hope to build a home together that will last 100 plus years.

As you can imagine, together with our architect, we struggled with some of the same issues that you have raised. After exploring numerous options and alternatives, we finally made the deeply personal decision that demolition and rebuilding was the best option for our family and, in our opinion, the East Chop neighborhood. This decision was not made lightly — we have lovingly restored and maintained this house and the property to the best of our ability given all the limitations of a 147 year old structure. Over the past 11 years, this has included re-shingling, re-roofing, repainting, reinforcing, replacing all the rotted windows, modernizing the kitchen and 2 bathrooms, re-doing the rotted porch (this winter) and extensive landscaping. However, as you know, behind all the flowers and underneath many layers of paint and shingle, our house is just a simple structure of a wood frame with wood paneling.

This exercise has inspired us to look around at the older homes on East Chop and acknowledge the struggles of trying to retain the history of Martha's Vineyard while also living in the realities of today. In many older homes, the struggle is reflected by the home's appearance. Many of these homeowners struggle with the decision of whether to expend considerable financial resources to (a) restore and maintain their older home (often with no improvement), or (b) update and modernize. In many cases, nothing happens because there is a stalemate between the ideas and the homes suffer from a lack of care. We also see homes that attempt to do both, often resulting in odd modifications or additions. There is no easy answer - but we feel our plan will contribute to the overall esthetic of East Chop.

Additionally, it is especially difficult to comprehend the architectural and historic significance of our house. Even if we stipulate that the Palmer Villa is architecturally and historically important, it is hard to ignore the fact that it was moved from its original location, split into two separate residential houses, and placed on separate lots. Because our home emanated from half of Palmer Villa, it was drastically modified (not in the original style) by each owner to make up for whatever was lost to the other half. The two houses cannot be put back together and the Palmer Villa can never truly be restored. Anyone looking at 7 and 11 Arlington today would be hard pressed to see one building, much less the Palmer Villa. Respectfully, we struggle to understand how our home continues to have historical significance.

The recent quarantine and our aging family have made us realize that we would like this to be a modern year-round home. It became painfully clear that the quirky things we find charming for 4 months in the summer lose their charm when you are trying to live and work here in the colder months. All the floors and doors are askew and wonky. There is no privacy because interior walls are only wood planks and paint. The quarantine also highlighted some safety issues, like the need to keeping the wood stove running nonstop which caused the chimney to pull away from the wood frame and create an open crack to the outside in our living room. We also constantly blew the electric system because of the use of space heaters, electric blankets, while all 5 people "plugged in" for school and work.

Quarantine also made us understand how difficult it is to live with 5 adults in this house when going outside is not an option. The main upstairs hallway that connects all the bedrooms is 2ft 6in wide and the all the staircases are a narrow 2ft 8in and very steep. In the summers our children play or work outside of the house (landscaping, Our Market, Backdoor Donuts, MV Film Center, Murdick's and Island Outfitters) and my husband did not work from home so privacy and sound insulation was not an issue. The changes we propose in the latest drawings keep the same number of bedrooms on the second floor and adds a first-floor guest room for our aging parents, and maybe even our aging selves.

Finally, we'd like to address the letters written concerned with the proposed demolition of 7 Arlington.

John Sands & Kendra Sands:

7 and 11 Arlington are side by side and have been that way since the houses were moved here in 1919. The two sides of the house (not the front or the back) face each other on the property line. It is common for sides of houses in this

area, where the plots are smaller, to be two stories built up next to each other, like the houses on Institution Hill. Once we spoke to John Sands we voluntarily went to great lengths to address the concerns with the revised designs - review the West Elevation of the proposed plan.

Please also take into consideration that the Sands' house is a full time summer weekly rental that sleeps up to 16 people, so each week there is a new group of people. The Sands' raised deck and main outdoor seating area is built directly up to the shared property line and fence, so we have our own concerns of privacy that we address on our property with the current design. The proposed plan is the same distance from the property line as exists today. Finally, it's my understanding that the water views they'd like us to consider are long gone from when the houses were moved here in 1919, when East Chop was a golf course with few to no trees, and there were no houses across East Chop Drive. We can only say that when the Elliot's rebuilt their house across from us on East Chop Drive, which we admire greatly, from a ranch to a two-story house that affected our view - we consider that their choice on their property. They built the house they needed for their personal use and growing family.

Ted Meleney: The current garage/bunk house has 4 built in bunk beds and had been used as a spill over sleeping area for the prior owners and we have used it in the same way. Our plans would not change the use of the building. In addition, our children are college and high school age and we have never received a complaint about its use. We will continue to be sensitive to this issue in the future.

Anne Rounseville, et al: We understand the seasonal nature of the island and this neighborhood, if approved, we do not plan to do demolition until the summer season is over and any construction over the summer should be done in a reasonable and customary manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our feelings known. Please feel free to reach out to discuss any open issues.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kim & Eunu Chun