February 22, 2022

Oak Bluffs Select Board:

The Affordable Housing Committee discussed affordable and workforce housing compliance issues at our February 15 meeting to understand and recommend future actions. As a result of our discussion, the Affordable Housing Committee voted to recommend the Select Board encourage the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) not to modify DRI 670, Lampost Workforce Housing.

The MVC's investigation revealed the owner of the Lampost is out of compliance with the MVC DRI 670 decision and Oak Bluffs Special permit by renting five of the ten workforce housing units over the past 3-years as short-term rentals through Airbnb or informally to family and friends. This action has removed workforce housing for 20 or more workers vital to local businesses and the economy.

The owner has requested the MVC modify DRI 670, asking to convert six workforce housing units to short-term Airbnb rentals. This request is not in the best interest of Oak Bluffs and ignores the blatant disregard for the 2018 MVC decision and Oak Bluffs Special permit conditions. The property must be brought into compliance before entertaining any modification.

The Affordable Housing Committee requests the Select Board write a letter urging the MVC not to modify DRI 670, reducing the number of local workforce housing units from 10 to 4, thus removing critically-needed Oak Bluffs workforce housing from local businesses.

Sincerely,

K. Mark Leonard
Chair, Oak Bluffs Affordable Housing Committee

cc: Deb Potter, Town Administrator
Oak Bluffs Planning Board