

August 4, 2022

Mr. Alex Elvin
Martha's Vineyard Commission
P.O. Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: 1133 Main Street

Dear Mr. Elvin and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the careful consideration that you are giving to the demolition request submitted by Susannah and Brian Bristol for their home at 1133 Main Street in Vineyard Haven. I write today as a private citizen and friend of the Bristols. I believe that the request ought to be granted for several reasons.

First, the proposed new house will have a significantly lower carbon footprint than the existing house. Switching from oil heat to electric heat pumps will make a beneficial difference by burning less carbon and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, the better insulation and energy efficiency of the proposed, smaller, new house will further lower its carbon footprint. Meeting certain defined energy standards could be a requirement for an approval.

Second, the exterior of the proposed new house is designed in the same, historic, architectural "shingle" style as the house that it would replace. Not only is the proposed house of the same architectural style, it also looks almost exactly like the existing house. The proposed house is designed with great respect for the architectural character of the existing house and its contribution to the appearance of the West Chop neighborhood and the visual character of the community. In addition, the existing house is not contained within the West Chop Historic District.

Third, the new house would be smaller than the existing house. While the house is not visible from the loop by the flagpole, the house is visible from Vineyard Sound. Generally, reductions in the size of residential structures are seen as beneficial to public views, whether these views are from the land or from the water.

I believe that this proposal offers an opportunity to develop a stronger set of standards with which to judge demolition requests, and an opportunity to establish requirements for new structures, if demolition is approved. Certainly the number of such requests to come before the Commission can only grow.

Thank you for your consideration and your effort to preserve the historic character of the Island's built environment.

Sincerely,



Adam R. Moore
141 Quansoo Road, Chilmark