

Fwd: Harbor View Hotel Spa Improvement

Adam Turner

Thu 1/21/2021 3:57 PM

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Alice D. Mattison" <askalicere@aol.com>
Date: January 21, 2021 at 3:50:24 PM EST
To: Adam Turner <turner@mvcommission.org>
Subject: Harbor View Hotel Spa Improvement
Reply-To: "Alice D. Mattison" <askalicere@aol.com>

Dear MV Commission,

I am a year round voting resident of 100 North Water Street, (Corner of Cottage Street and North Water), Edgartown. I have owned my home since 1975 and have been a year round resident most of that time. I am a lifelong summer resident. My Grandfather, Frank Joseph Donahue started his love of MV when in 1913-1914 he was the MA Secretary of State, the youngest Secretary of State and came to MV. He brought my Dad, Malcolm M Donahue along with his brothers here starting in the 1920's. My grandfather became a Superior Court Judge in 1930's- 1970's and fell in love with MV in the off season as well as the summer. He was often given the rotation to MV as the Judge. He stayed at the Harbor View Hotel, The Kelly House(Great Harbor Inn) and Katama Shores Motor Inn. Growing up here on the North side of Edgartown, my sister and I after sailing all day would accompany our grandfather and our parents to the Harbor View Hotel for Saturday Night dinners where we would meet island attorneys, visiting Judges and attorneys and Statesmen from worldwide. I am giving you this quick synopsis of my Edgartown connection to show our families long term love of the north side of Edgartown and the Harbor View Hotel as well as all of the island and its residents and guests. When I bought my house at 100 North Water I knew the Harbor View Hotel was to be my neighbor.

Bernard Chiu purchased the Harvard View Hotel in 2018 from a group of investors- Drew Conway, James Swartz, Josh McCall, Paul Mitchell, Brad Palmer, Peter Lawson-Johnson, David Brush, and others. All the investors were offered the opportunity to continue their investment with Bernard. They declined. They had sold off the pier and tennis courts to pay debt. The hotel was in deplorable condition. The heat and the air conditioning did not function. The kitchen and laundry rooms were disgusting. Bernard Chiu has spent sixty 60 million dollars improving The Harbor View Hotel. The Historic Building has 41 rooms and

The Roxanna (Mayhew) 42. Same number as Bob Carroll had when he owned it. The rooms are redone and refurbished. The improvements to the hotel have been at the request of some of the neighbors. The pool and pool area as well as the pool bar are now elegant places for hotel guests and the public to enjoy and have lunch or dinner. I consulted a post card from the Bob Carroll and Jaws era that shows the Roxanna(Mayhew) and the pool space is the SAME with the pool bar at the hotel end. The pool bar now is clean and lovely and meets Board of Health regulations. Bernard has also made the Hotel and pool areas more handicapped accessible as required by law. Twenty dumpster's of trash were taken out of the basements and attics of the hotel. State of the art interior trash compacting, fire prevention, water cooling systems, water heating systems, lighting safety systems have been installed. New fences have been installed on neighbors property lines with new plantings. Everything has been done to perfection and as Environmentally Green as possible and as quiet as possible. This is all for the betterment of the hotel as well as our neighborhood. The hotel has had town permits for its improvements. The new lighting is code. I could go on and on. The list is extensive and endless. Bernard is fully aware of the covenants that run with the title of the property. The landscaping is impeccable. The cars, the silent electric golf cart and the horse and carriage rides as well as the bikes are very nice and guests can leave their cars behind. Half of the guests come without cars.

I have watched the TWO 2 Zoom calls the Harbor View Hotel prepared to educate all the neighbors. I have been on TWO 2 complete tours of the historic building, the Mayhew Roxanna building, the kitchen, the laundry, the presidential suite, the cottages and the pool area and bar, the great lawn and the arbor. I have seen the out dated building that will be torn down for the long awaited SPA. The SPA building is an interior building. No neighbors border this building. When it is replaced you will not even notice there is a change. The SPA has been talked about since First Winthrop and Arthur Halleran purchased the hotel from Bob Carroll and Senator Jones in 1989. The SPA is a needed amenity for the hotel guests and the public. I have eaten (this covid summer of 2020) Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the hotel, on the porch and at the pool bar and had take out. All has been fabulous. No noise is being made and all the lights that are code are wonderful. Paths are now lighted. It is truly the beautiful GRAND LADY that it once was. On Face book the Harbor View posted a picture of the Hotel in the 1950's and a recent one. The Hotel looks very similar with the Porch crowded with people in the 50's. Be sure to see these as they depict great history of the island.

There is a lot of miss information I have heard and read in the letters that I see written. Please go on a tour of the hotel with the manager Scott Little. You can not make a proper and correct decision until you have a full tour and see for yourself that this GRAND LADY has been restored and come back to life. Please meet Bernard Chiu who is a complete gentleman. I have been to all his offices. I have known Bernard and his now ex-wife and daughters since 1990. I have been to all major family events and we have spent numerous holidays together. Our families have gone to many events together. I also know Bernard's significant other and her son as well as Bernards grandchildren. All family is involved in the hotel. We are lucky Bernard Chiu wants the hotel to be a legacy for his family. Bernard is an individual owner not a chain. The buck stops with him. He is very approachable. He has tried to make the Harbor View Hotel a show piece for all of us to enjoy. All this controversy is certainly not good for our neighborhood, friendships and the Hotel. Bernard endures spy cameras from the Swartz, Caraboolad and Barbato property trained on The Harbor View Hotel and his private residence 119 North Water Street where he resides. The dock at 119 North Water Street is used for Bernards private family use as well as it does have commercial town license. This is certainly not the way to welcome anyone to MV and we are lucky to have Bernard. Change is inevitable, but when it is done tastefully with respect to historic details it is an asset to the community.

The SPA would be a wonderful addition to The Harbor View Hotel. When the hotel reopens please go and have breakfast and take a tour. You will see for your selves how wonderful it is. If you need someone to go with you call me. I will gladly take the time to take another tour.

Sincerely,
Alice "Sherry" Donahue Mattison
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