

In support Shearer Cottage renovation

Amy Goldson <lawarg@icloud.com>

Thu 12/2/2021 7:59 AM

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

Please consider my letter re the importance of Shearer Cottage and include this in the record. Feel free to call me to discuss on my cell number below. Thankyou.

Please see below - I had a problem in earlier transmission . Photos not included as file too large. Lee VanAllen has them. Thankyou.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amy Goldson <lawarg@icloud.com>
Date: December 1, 2021 at 8:07:09 PM EST
To: elvin@mvcommission.org
Subject: Shearer Cottage

Dear Elvin,

I am a life long summer resident of Oak Bluffs. I have never missed a summer since I was "in utero" and when born, initially staying with my Grandma who purchased her house in the 40's.

I remember as a child going with Grandma to see her friends staying at Shearer Cottage .Prominent people were always there . The proprietors ,past and present,—including Lee Jackson Van Allen ,introduced so many distinguished guests to Shearer Cottage. As a result , it is a historic landmark and an important part of the culture of African Americans on Martha's Vineyard.

Shearer Cottage is so important to us that it is included in an exhibition about the "power of place " at the Smithsonian African American History Museum. Coincidentally, my Mom 's priority to celebrate her 95 th birthday yesterday was to see the exhibit featuring Shearer Cottage and Oak Bluffs.

I hope that the Commission will work closely with Shearer Cottage ,Lee Van Allen and her family to allow them to update the Inn so that memories can continue to be created ; and a new structure permitted , so that the legacy begun by the Shearer family may continue. I am confident that under the stewardship of Lee Jackson Van Allen, the legacy of Shearer will be appropriately protected and preserved. Should you have an questions or desire additional information, please advise. I would be grateful if this letter may be made part of the record.

Sincerely,
Amy R Goldson
240 Newton Rd
Oak Bluffs, Ma. 02557

Amy R. Goldson
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