

Edwin H. Brooks

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December 28, 2020

The Martha's Vineyard Commission

Re: Harbor View Hotel

Dear Members of the Commission:

The Brooks family has lived at 40 Fuller Street since 1967. While we are primarily seasonal residents, our entire family views Edgartown as our true home; I guess it is true that home is where the heart is.

We have co-existed perfectly well with the Harbor View and its guests over the years, with the knowledge that there were suitable restrictions in place to tame the commercial impulses which any business owner might feel, to maximize utilization of the property without regard to the impact on the neighbors. The previous owners understood their agreement with the town and their neighbors, and we were pleased that the current owner made all the right comments about his civic responsibilities when he bought the property.

Those assurances quickly turned hollow as we witnessed the construction of the new restaurant which violated chapter and verse of those agreements. It was not so much the blatant disregard for the planning and zoning restrictions and the ABC violations as much as the utter contempt which the owner displayed toward the abutters and the entire neighborhood. It quickly became apparent in actions and in court filings that we are dealing with a bona fide bully, one for whom the rules and regulations that the rest of us live by simply do not apply.

I will not recite for the Commission the various ways in which the Harbor View Hotel has steamrolled the Town, I expect you know the sequence of events. I simply ask that you consider the nature of organization in considering how best to protect our neighborhood that we love so well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edwin Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.