

# Development of Regional Impact (DRI Coordinator

CARRIE TANKARD <tankard@comcast.net>

Wed 9/29/2021 8:57 AM

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

Cc: Erik Van Allen <ericpopevanallen1@gmail.com>;

Dear members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission:

I'm writing a letter in support of the renovations being done at the Inn at Shearer Cottage.

Since moving here 54 years ago, my family has enjoyed attending special events at the inn, as well as listening to the music and laughter that trickled down my street from other events held there.

My family connection stretches across generations. One of my daughters worked at Shearer to save money the summer before going off to college. The Inn has accommodated my family and friends traveling here to attend the annual NAACP George V. Tankard, Jr. Memorial 5K Road Race, that I chair as Vice President of the local NAACP chapter. The Inn has also welcomed my family and friends for my Grandson's wedding weekend. They have always been an integral part of the community.

As co-founder of the Martha's Vineyard African American Heritage Trail, I am especially proud Shearer Cottage is the first place recognized as one of the Heritage Trail sites, because they were one of the first Inns to welcome people of color, when there was nowhere else for them to go.

I believe the Shearer family is committed to preserving the Inn's history. They will take great care designing a structure that is in line with the ambiance of the neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Carrie B. Tankard  
16-A Glenwood Ave