

From: Pam Melrose  
Date: February 21, 2020 at 9:20:56 PM EST  
Subject: 14 Kennebec Ave (Menotomy Building)

Christina and Adam,

I want to thank you and Adam for your communications on the 14 Kennebec demolition proposal in OB. As a result, Brian Packish filed a demolition request with the Building Official and presented his plans to the OB Historical Commission at our Wednesday, February 19 meeting. We were able to access the thorough MVC reports & photos prior to our OBHC meeting.

The OBHC determined that the structure was definitely unsound and had enough modifications that its historical worth & integrity were minimal. Although what replaces the present structure is not in our purview, we had a lengthy & fruitful discussion with Brian about the plans for the prospective structure. We all felt the planned building with its turrets and design would be in keeping with & an asset to Oak Bluffs. We voted unanimously to vote that the present building was "not significant", which means that it is not considered for historical preservation of the building.

A couple of us attended the MVC Hearing the following evening. We had asked many of the questions we heard asked at the MVC Hearing last night. Although it is not our decision, our commission supports the restaurant/ apartments in the plans Brian & Chuck Sullivan shared at the MVC Hearing.

Several OBHC members are quite knowledgeable about architectural details and most of us are on the OBHC because of our love of and desire to preserve the charm & character of Oak Bluffs. We do our utmost to serve our town in preserving Oak Bluffs historic charm. Each Island town has its own architectural character which makes Martha's Vineyard the unique place it is.

It is our hope that the MVC will take into account the support of the OBHC for the proposed structure. Although not the original Land & Wharf building, OBHC encourages projects that respect the neighborhood where new structures are replacing their 'ancestors'.

Thank you for the support you have given us. We especially appreciate the communication when our groups have common jurisdictions, and that has been something that has really improved over recent years.

Sincerely,

Pam Melrose, OBHC Chairman