Approving the proposed plan to replace the rotting mess that is 14 Kennebeck would be in the best interests of the Island community and of the town of Oak Bluffs. Bringing structures up to the modern building codes while maintaining the character of the town and creating more housing as I believe this project does should be encouraged. All hurdles that projects of this sort often encounter should be removed.

Over the last several decades much of the quaintness of Oak Bluffs has deteriorated to squalor, note the Island Theater, the “Gift Shop” next to the flying horses and several buildings on Kennenbeck. These places, in my opinion are not only an eye sore but boarder on, if not are already, health hazards.

In the last few years I have eaten at The Red Cat on numerous occasions and have even helped with a few minor repairs. I have seen the horrible and unsafe conditions that the previous owner would not address. I have not seen a single part of this building that I would consider keeping except for purposes of illustrating bad stewardship, bad planning and questionable taste.

If I were a neighbor I would do what I could to see that this new plan succeeds. The present building is not only an eye sore it is close to being a danger to the community. As an Island neighbor I applaud the new plan and hope that the commission does what it can to ease the transition to a safer, cleaner and more esthetically pleasing building. The entire Island will benefit if this project succeeds.

Tony Omer