

MV Commission Land Use Planning Committee,

May 10, 2022

I “attended” last Thursday zoom meeting on IEH’s application to construct a new five-unit facility at Aidylberg 3 and write in support of it.

Before commenting on the IEH project I want to say I was very impressed with the content of Ben Robinson’s comprehensive Environmental Presentation which preceded the IEH discussion. It’s a critically important topic and his report was of impressive substantive content and extremely well presented. I appreciated the opportunity to be made aware of the important work being done.

As regards IEH’s project I understand that the architectural design may not be pleasing to everyone, we all have designs that resonate with our own taste. However, I do not think that disagreement should rise to the level of being a reason to reject this application. Since 1977 IEH has been doing heroic work in responding to the glaring need for subsidized elderly housing on the island as their existing diverse 165 units attest. While this is an incredible accomplishment, we all know the need for this type of housing has grown exponentially since 1977 and the proposed five new units are an incremental step in responding to current and future needs. They do not solve the problem, but like their 165 predecessors they chip away at it.

That said the new facility will provide a sanctuary for five individuals who meet IEH’s screening requirements and will thus be able to live on the island, and for an additional revolving number of five to do so for many decades to come. Because of the experience with the 165 units it currently provides IEH knows what the interior design of the proposed 5 units needs to consist of in order to provide a welcoming, efficient, safe and dignified living space for their residents.

It’s been said that form follows function and I believe it is what’s inside the five units that should be the determining factor for your approval rather than their exterior appearance. I therefore strongly urge the committee to approve IEH’s application and enable these critically needed units to be built.

Thank you,

Matthew Stackpole:

West Tisbury resident and former IEH Board member.