

John Sands

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Hi,

I am writing on behalf of the proposed large renovation project at 7 Arlington Ave on East Chop. While I am in favor of investing back into any part of Martha's Vineyard's unique culture and timeless appeal, I believe it needs to be done just as that.

My family and I have been going to MV for 30 years, so nearly my entire life. Through my many years of travel, Martha's Vineyard clearly has been able to smartly keep its unique charm while growing and updating gracefully.

Our home there, while serving several weeks of the year as a rental property, is far more than that. It has been hand restored by my father and the family keeping intact what Martha's Vineyard is built around and a hugely popular spot to spend time.

All projects either commercial or residential needs to be designed and scaled to coincide with the surrounding neighbors and landscape. The current proposal is scaled too large and will be looming over our property and neighbors creating a sense of invasiveness instead of value. Each project like this that is approved, is a slippery slope, sliding away from what MV is and closer to the megamansions and unwelcome nature of the Hamptons.

The recommended adjustments to the design, to not only be "neighborly" but also to soften the invasiveness, is to move the added sq ft more on the north and east side instead. This would keep the sightlines to the ocean and soften the effect of such a large renovation for the neighbors. In addition, all sides should have architectural design appeal instead of just streetside.

We plan on renovating in the future as well but intend on keeping the historical design instead of another faceless box popping up throughout the island. Please consider this appeal thoroughly for the future generations to come.

Thanks

John Max Sands DMD