

October 7, 2023

Dear MV Commissioners:

I am Gretchen Snyder, and have owned and lived in my home at 37 Lagoon Pond Rd, VH. for 23 years. I attended, via zoom, your Oct 5th meeting regarding #33 Lagoon Pond Rd. I found it interesting that there were no dimensions of heights (total from ground) of the new structure in the plans...since a 4 story structure is rather an extreme (my opinion) in a 1.5-2 story neighborhood.

Some of my comments on demolition are:

I agree the house was at its end. However, no one mentioned the large 100yr(?) old tree (Not sure type, lots of apple though, was 4-5 ft diameter 10-12' circumference tree) on street front of property, left corner when looking at house, was also cut down early one morning. Apparently. It is the landowner's right, but the planning board had no idea when I called to ask about it. There did seem to be some rot in middle of the trunk, but the tree man agreed that no-one knew until it was cut down.

It appears it was a nuisance to the new structure.

The same owner of #33, owns the house and property on the corner by the PO, which he 'renovated' and rents as airbnb.(He told me that). The back of the lot in driveway is still permitted to have a garage. He mentioned it might have an office above it. How many stories are permitted?

Onto new construction:

I asked Eversource management the height of the electric poles on Lagoon Pond Rd and was told usually 35-40ft, depending on how deeply set, so 30-34 ft probably. We are a landfilled wetland, when you look at the poles compared to the houses on the street, which are smaller than poles....and imagine a double sized house in between present homes, it is a bit jarring. I do concede, that in time many of the homes will either be gone or put up on poles as well. Eleven feet for poles seems a lot to me.. but I assume you know the true specs.

I am curious as to the type of pilings and how deep he plans to drill them. The experience of the Wind Farm building still shakes me, but I am not clear if he plans to do steel or treated wood? How deep into a landfill swamp does he intend to dig? It would be considerate to keep the neighbors informed. As well as how he manages the building of structure in such tight quarters.

There are porches on the left side and back of the house facing homes that are 5 feet away? The picture shows lots of space around the new homes...yet in reality it appears squeezed in and I suspect comes closer to the street than the original home that was set back from the street and only a 1.5 story home. It would be helpful if the owner would provide a model of the street (at least the homes it is in the middle and in front of) with his planned new structure.

Finally, it was a nice thought that the top of the 4th story has a porch to view the harbor..but perhaps in a few years the property in front will have a 4 story apt as well.

In closing, thank you for your diligence in this project. It is setting a major precedent. I confess I was insulted that our 'fish factory' implies we are less important (visually?) than Look St.

I realize the owner has the right to do what he wants. Chicken Alley has been the lower end of affluence where the working locals lived. So replacing old homes with seasonal rentals is quite out of character and perhaps depriving local families a year round home. Yes, that is my opinion.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider my concerns on your site visit.

Respectfully yours,

Gretchen Snyder

Cc: Tisbury Planning Board