

"ASense of Place: Houses on Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod" is available now.

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From: Philip Regan

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2019 8:56 AM

To: ewellhopkins@icloud.com

Cc: Barbara Baskin <bbaskin2@comcast.net>; Shelley Moore Christiansen (shellmc2@msn.com) <shellmc2@msn.com>; 'Matt Cramer (E-mail)' <mrcramer@hutkerarchitects.com>; Denby Olcott <denbyolcott@gmail.com>

Subject: CCHDC at Uncas

Ewell

I will attempt to be at tonight's meeting but can't guarantee I can make it due to work related matters.

Last late summer (I believe it may have been September 27), I received a call that their was a tactical response team exercise underway at the house on the corner of Circuit and Uncas avenues. I drove to the site and subsequently spoke with the Edgartown Police chief, who was observing the exercise, and moments later with the response team commander. I informed both of them, the house was located within the Cottage City Historic District, and no request had been made, nor permission been granted, to alter the appearance of the house. This followed the fact that all of the exterior siding had been removed from the house, without CCHDC approval, sometime earlier in the summer.

The commander was unaware of the house's position within the District...he said the owner intended on demolishing the house and had volunteered the house as a location for the intended training exercise. I responded by saying, any house within the District, if exterior alterations visible from a public way are proposed, must come before the CCHDC with an application and a formal review process. I told him, the owner had not been before the CCHDC with any request to demolish the building, therefore, the exercise was premature. I also added that I was concerned that irreparable damage could very well be underway if the exercise was not halted.

The commander, who was both respectful and apologetic, asked if he could complete a "hostage negotiation" exercise within the building, and do no damage to the exterior of the building. He agreed to damage no windows or doors in the process.

During the Spring of 2019, I was contacted by a new commander for the team. He asked if they could hold a second exercise at the same house. I told him, the owner had since informally appeared before

the CCHDC and discussed his idea for building a new bank along with some affordable housing on the property...the proposed project would include demolition of the house. However, the proposed project has not come before the CCHDC as part of a formal application, therefore no ruling on the property's future has been established. In fact, I alerted him to the neighborhood "outcry" I received following the first exercise. With that, I denied him the "go-ahead" on the second exercise. He too was very respectful of my position, and thanked me for the consideration.

The CCHDC's interaction with Robert Sawyer (owner) has been limited to the one informal discussion described above. Mr. Sawyer should be well versed in the CCHDC rules...we had an extended review process with him during the "bowling alley" proceedings several years ago.

Phil Regan

Principal

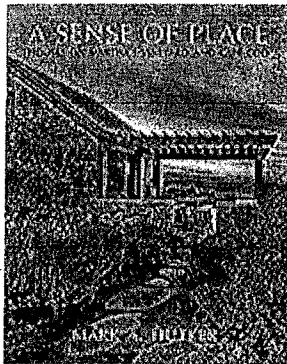
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