

Fw: submission regarding Edwin Luce House proposed demolition

Lucy Morrison

Tue 1/11/2022 9:34 PM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

DRI 706 Correspondence

Lucy Morrison

Executive Assistant

MV Commission

(774) 563-5279

(508) 338-7313

From: ozbrooks@aol.com <ozbrooks@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 10:07 AM

To: Lucy Morrison

Subject: submission regarding Edwin Luce House proposed demolition

Dear Board Members,

I write to express my extreme dismay at this Board's willingness to raze yet another historic Vineyard home that has essentially been demolished by neglect.

A very few years ago, and for decades, that house sheltered a Vineyarder and her live-in carers while her child lived in the guest house. It was, in short, a fully functioning home. It is very easy--too easy--to let these precious centuries old buildings fall into disrepair and then argue, well, now nothing can be done. The MVC's decisions seem to reward this behavior time and time again.

I was particularly horrified by Commissioner Barnes's blithe assertion that we need to look to the future not the past. Really, Trip? A future of ever more bloated homes that suburbanize this unique, rural, historic place and have the carbon footprint of King Kong? And I laughed out loud at his concern for the contractors' bottom line at a time when every construction-related trade on this island is so burdened with overwork they're practically booking into the next decade. Leave aside that a renovation would also provide plenty of work, as would have the maintenance of these buildings over the years they have been left to decay.

I was also troubled by the assertion that historic houses that can't be seen from the road aren't worth preserving. Is that really all we care about now? Being a fantasy island for tourist buses to gawp at?

Indian Hill is a wonderfully preserved enclave of this island's rural past. It's increasingly rare historic homes speak to our island history as a rural place where people of modest means lived and thrived by hard labor and closeness to the land.

It helps us to answer the essential question of who we were, through which we reach a better understanding of who we have become.

I urge the board to seriously rethink the way they evaluate issues of historic preservation before that entire story is erased from the landscape.

Geraldine Brooks
16 Mill Road
West Tisbury