West Tisbury Planning Board
Post Office Box 278
West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575

Dear board members,

I understand that a question has been raised in connection with the Island Autism Group’s (IAG) ownership of land that is subject to a land bank agricultural preservation restriction (APR). The property is located at 515 Lamberts Cove Road in West Tisbury.

Apparently the question concerns the driveway that connects the public road to the farm’s building envelope and whether it can be relocated. I am writing to confirm that, pursuant to the terms of the APR, it cannot be moved.

The purpose of the APR, as stipulated in its preface, is to protect the “agricultural and conservation” qualities of the land. This means that whenever a proposal arises the first consideration is whether it advances agricultural and conservation purposes, which relocation does not.

But the APR is even more specific as regards access to the public road. In protecting the field it carves out an exception only for the “maintenance of the ‘existing driveway’ shown on the [p]lan.” This means that the driveway is required to remain in the location cited on the plan.

The land bank understands that IAG may seek to offer adjustments in order to accommodate its neighbors. While driveway relocation is not possible, it would indeed advance conservation purposes if IAG wished to plant vegetative screening south of the driveway. I should also mention that the land bank has already agreed to relocate its trail so that it will be more distant from the southerly border than originally planned. Doing so jibes with the terms of the APR and the land bank was happy to cooperate.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

James Lengyel
Executive Director

P.O. Box 2057  •  Edgartown, Massachusetts 02539  •  508 627-7141  •  Fax 508 627-7415

printed on recycled paper