

Renee Balter
P.O. Box 106
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

November 15, 2006

MV Commission
New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: Martha's Vineyard Hospital new construction

As someone who is very involved in historic preservation and the architectural character of Oak Bluffs, I want to simply suggest some basic concerns I have for the design and materials for the proposed new construction of the hospital.

First of all, I believe that the "decorative elements", which do not relate to or enhance the overall structure, should be deleted. These are an attempt to add something "Victorian" to a building that clearly is not. Instead, I would like to suggest that all wood trim be substantially stronger in width and thickness, especially for the window sills, window and door frames, corner and fascia boards.

In addition, I would also recommend that there be a steeper pitch on the gable ends to meet the edge of the building and that roof shingles be used instead of metal.

Lastly, I understand that the building will be primarily made of brick. Since brick is not a common material here on the Vineyard, I believe that it is important to select a brick that is not dark brown in color, but rather a soft pink-orange hue. This will soften the overall bulk of the building and give the feeling of warmth that will not be as offensive aesthetically.

I hope that the Commission will encourage a meeting with the architects for the hospital and the Oak Bluffs Historical Commission and perhaps even a meeting with the Cottage City Historic District Commission to review the final selection of materials and trim choices.

In closing, I just want to say that I am 100% in favor of a new hospital. I truly believe that public input is important and can have a lasting and rewarding effect on the final design. I am hoping that this building can respond to the architectural integrity of Oak Bluffs with a few minor adjustments.

I want to thank the Commission for this opportunity and to commend you all for your interest, time and talent in helping the island to plan for a better future.

Sincerely,

Renee Balter