

"I read the Boston Globe article on MVY's housing crisis and CCMVHB's effort toward a regional housing bank funded by a transfer fee. I am very concerned about the ever-increasing housing crisis facing our community. I hope the town will formally support both CCMVHB's efforts toward a regional housing bank, and the state legislation enabling the adoption of Transfer Fees in the Commonwealth specifically to fund affordable housing. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue."

*Jeff and Gail Spear
West Tis*

Good Morning,

I am writing this email, requesting that my message be transferred to all and any applicable select boards, planning boards, and/or affordable housing committees on the island that I may have missed, as this is an issue that impacts the entire island.

I am a 28 year old local public school educator. I teach music at the Edgartown School, am the owner and director of crescendo performing arts school (crescendoperformingartsschool.com), and was formerly the artistic director of the MV children's chorus. I also provide extremely needed child care and academic tutoring for island families year round, and until recently worked at the YMCA part time. I am an integral part of this community, and people rely on the various services I provide.

I write this email requesting full confidentiality regarding the information I disclose. If confidentiality is not maintained, I could very easily lose my current housing and be homeless.....I have great fear to even send this email because of how quickly landlords on this island can decide to leave us homeless.

I have struggled with housing since the moment I started working on the island. I do not qualify for "affordable housing" since as a single teacher I technically make too much yearly. This does not take into account taxes that I have to pay, or the expenses that I have to cover just to live on this island.

My first year on the island I lived in a lovely winter rental in VH with 1 roommate. I then moved into an extremely small year round cottage in Vineyard Haven, but was only there for 2 months because it was bug infested and the landlord refused to install the washer and dryer that they had promised. After this, I moved into another year round rental in VH, where my landlord and neighbors were constantly spying on me and did not allow me privacy. I'm a young and quiet professional with a very quiet and sweet older dog. I work all the time at multiple jobs, and do not engage in anything "interesting", so the things that they were finding to take issue with were truly absurd. My then landlord heard that I was looking for another place to rent, so she gave me 30 days to find a new rental. On this island, 30 days notice to move out is basically sentencing someone to homelessness, or forcing them to move off island. Luckily, I found two rentals. I selected the one in Edgartown, thinking that it would be private and close to work. Unfortunately, the privacy and true independent living has been far more limited than I was led to believe.

Prior to recently moving in with my partner, I was paying \$1,450 per month by myself for my current Edgartown rental. Upon my partner moving in, my landlord raised the rent \$550. Myself and my partner (occupations carpenter) currently pay \$2,000 per month for a rental in Edgartown. While this is a price we can pay, this rental lacks privacy, and are basically not allowed to have any guests. We almost never have guests anyway, so what I am referring to is having a friend come to stay for a long weekend on the couch 1-2 times per year. We have had our eyes and ears open for a more private situation for months, and none exist.

If this housing situation does not improve, we will be leaving the island within the next 1-2 years. We are young professionals who are very valued at our individual jobs and in our community, but the housing situation is going to push us out. If action is not taken now to start housing us and people like us, the island will lose professionals that are needed to keep our community functioning. Our island schools already struggle to find teachers. There are so many job openings in our school district that are being filled with individuals who are not qualified, or, these positions are simply left empty. Ultimately, it will be the children in our community who suffer from this situation. I hope that CCMVHB's effort to form and fund affordable housing in our community, as well as efforts to house specifically our island teachers will be supported and made a priority now. The need is massive and action needs to occur now.

Again, I want to reiterate that I write this email requesting **full confidentiality** regarding the information I disclose. If confidentiality is not maintained, I could very easily lose my current housing and be homeless....I have great fear to even send this email because of how quickly landlords on this island can decide to leave us homeless.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Laura Walton

Hello,

I read the Boston Globe's recent article about the MV housing crisis and wanted to voice my support for the regional housing bank and transfer fee that CCMVHB is spearheading.

I grew up on MV in West Tisbury, and I moved back in March 2020 when the pandemic struck. Since then I have moved twice and plan to move again in mid July because our rental is up. I have experienced the shuffle and the difficulty that comes with repeated displacement, though certainly I consider myself fortunate compared to some of the stories in the article where folks were forced to rent hotel rooms or split up their families.

I would like this email to be forwarded to the WT Select Board, Planning Board, and Affordable Housing Committee in order to convey my support for CCMVHB, a regional housing bank, and the proposed transfer fee.

Many thanks!
Jonah Lipsky, West Tisbury resident