

Dear Public Official:

Is it time to put the wheels into motion to take the necessary steps to dismantel the Land Bank that is on Martha's Vineyard? I think so. Their leadership appears to have stepped into the zone of no return. It appears as though they have totally forgotten or have chosen to dismiss the fact that their funding comes from the independent individual purchasers of properties on Martha's Vineyard.

Make no mistake, the Land Bank has become very well endowed by individual purchasers who are buying parcels on the Vineyard in that said purchasers are mandated by law to pay on top of their purchase price an additional two perfect 2% to the Land Bank. When the Land Bank legislation originated it did so because there was such a need for conservation, such a need for a reigning in. But, that entity has arguably outlived it's purpose as evidenced by their actions.

FACT: The Land Bank is the number one largest land owner on Martha's Vineyard; and rightfully so because they are fully funded by that 2% land bank fee.

BUT, the excessive monies in the coffers of the Land Bank has led to inappropriate decisions made by the leadership of the Land Bank, arguably because of the insulated power of the purse, warping thier existence of reality. The coffers of money that is bestowed upon them, year, after year, after year, without having to do anything to earn said monies, have yielded a warped ideology of operation. For example, their

most recent purchase of a Nine Million Dollar (\$9,000,000.00) property with a swimming pool.

BUT, the most obvious inappropriate, and illegal decision made by leadership is their decision to illegally offer their upper main street property for sale, to non-profits or municipalities. Under what umbrella do they think they seek protection against Fair Housing Laws in that they can discriminate against the general public and deny the general public the same opportunity, in accordance with Fair Housing, to bid on the home that sits on Main Street, Edgartown? It is clear that the Land Bank has outlived their purpose and that they have descended into the slippery slope grey area of ambiguity as to clarity of purpose and clarity of compliance with the law. Have they forgotten that their coffers have been funded by the general public, not isolated by the non-profits or municipal entities? Have they forgotten where their funds originated from? Apparently so, they have forgotten that their coffers were funded by transactions that complied with Fair Housing Laws; and have forgotten that they too should be held to that same legal standard. But as often as the mighty buck brings, a deep financial coffer brings the dismissiveness to legality and is replaced with self-rule. Shame. The self-rule that the Land Bank has decided to employ prejudices those individuals that put their hard earned money into the coffers of the Land Bank. Individuals are experiencing discrimination in that they do NOT have the right to exercise an option, in accordance with Fair Housing, to try to secure that very asset that their monies allowed the Land Bank to acquire.

This is a call to dismantel the Lane Bank. Their existence is no longer needed. They have fulfilled their initial legislative intent, they have conserved so much land that they are now the number one largest land holder on the vineyard. They are no longer needed. The Land Bank ideology no longer serves the island as a whole. The Land Bank has elected to engage in discriminatory behavior that is not acceptable and not needed. Since their legislative birth there has been the birth of a handful of land conservatory entitles on the Vineyard that achieve the original intent of land conservation. The Land Bank is no longer needed. Preservation on the Vineyard has grown a continuing system of agencies that excercise the intent of land conservation, unlike what the Land Bank has morphed into.

The Land Bank no longer needs to exists. Their administrative actions have created this call to dismateling into play. They have too much money. Their money has led them to make poor purchases, i.e. a \$9M swimming pool and we now find them in the position where they are electing to sell properties and when doing so are doing so in a discriminating manner. Money yields power, power yields the ideology that one is above the law. The Land Bank has exhibited this in pure form by their offering for sale of their upper main street property to only non-profits or municipalities, in violation of Fair Housing.

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