-----Original Message-----
From: Les Cutler
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 5:05 PM
To: planningboard@westtisbury-ma.gov
Subject: Application from Esteban Aranzabe re: Sherman and Susan Goldstein Special Permit

Dear Ms. Smith and Planning Board members:

I’m writing this letter in support of the Special Permit requested by Sherman and Susan Goldstein under Section 4.4-8 of the Residential Building Size Bylaw for the addition of a first floor bedroom to the existing home.

We have been full time residents and neighbors of the Goldsteins for approximately 20 years. Their request to add a ground floor bedroom to their existing house is both wise and reasonable. Mrs. Goldstein has had some medical challenges of late and that has caused them, like many aging West Tisbury residents, to realize that the traditional two story homes with all bedrooms on the second floor built twenty years ago present serious challenges for older folks today. The relatively recent Residential Building Size Bylaw, while understandable, needs some flexibility because homes built years ago when many of us were in our 50s are not suitable for us as we have aged into our 70s and 80s. Having a first floor bedroom becomes medically and socially necessary for virtually all of us to stay in our current homes and age in place as we move into our “golden years".

The Goldsteins shared the plans for the addition they are requesting and it appears appropriate in size and does not greatly increase the over all square footage of their current home. It is the proper step for them and similar actions will increasingly become the proper step for many West Tisbury residents as they age.

In summary, adding the first floor bedroom is a prudent step for the Goldsteins on both medical and social grounds as the addition will allow them to age in place. In my view, based on my many years in academic medicine and as the former Chancellor of the University of Connecticut Health Center, it is also in the best interest of the town to approve other requests of this nature as our town’s population ages.

Thanks for listening and for looking positively on the Goldstein's and other similar requests from West Tisbury residents who would like to age in place.

 Sincerely,

 Les Cutler

 12 Capawock Rd.