To: West Tisbury Select Board

> From: Richard Knabel

>

> Re; Howes House Renovation

>

> I thought your board made a very responsible decision when, several months ago, you announced a pause on the HH renovation project. The recent effort by the Building Committee to seek approval from the Historic District Commission seems to have ended that ‘pause’, which is disappointing. I welcome the HDC’s decision to deny approval, and congratulate them for their courage.

>

> I have had concerns about the project from its earliest days when I participated in the focus groups discussing the scope of the project. It has become a textbook example of massive ‘mission creep’.

>

> Attached is a summary of my concerns and suggestions for how I believe the project should proceed, which I offer for your consideration. The key to going forward, I believe, suggests itself: For many reasons, the project should be restarted with a different building committee and architects, difficult as I realize that is at this point. The lack of enthusiasm for a $10M project from both Chilmark and Aquinnah, and many WT voters as well, should be reason enough, but not the only reason, that proceeding with the current proposal is a mistake.

>

> A great deal of well-intentioned effort, and some expense, has already been expended on this first attempt. The project is very needed, but not in its current scope. Please restart it.

>

> Thank you.

Richard Knabel