

Max Skjöldebrand
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July 18, 2023

By e-mail:
Select Board
West Tisbury Town Hall
1059 State Road
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575

To the Select Board,

I write, as a concerned West Tisbury Taxpayer, to ask the Select Board to pause the Howes House Renovation project with immediate effect.

The editorial in the Vineyard Gazette of Friday July 14, 2023, regarding the Howes House renovation project, summarizes well my concerns and highlights the key issues which, up until now, have NOT been given proper consideration.

As a retired architect and also a Member of the West Tisbury Library Building Committee, I have kept myself informed about this project. I am convinced that insufficient consideration has been given to the following by the Howes House Committee and the architects they have employed:

- the space needs of the Up-Island Council of Aging, in the context of the context of the West Tisbury Library campus,
- preliminary consultation with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the West Tisbury Planning Board, to determine what they will accept on the Howes House site.
- given the restricted Howes House site and the current concerns of the Historic District Commission about the size of the proposed building, separating the Council of Aging from Howes House.
- alternative sites for the Council of Aging, not just in the center of West Tisbury, but in all of up-island, given that it is also to serve Chilmark and Aquinnah.

- the minimum work needed to preserve Howes House as an historic building, to the satisfaction of the Historic District Commission, for any minimal use.

- insufficient consultation to date with Town taxpayers given the staggering multi-million dollar cost projections.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Select Board to pause this project, for as long as it takes, to stop any further waste of taxpayer money, until all of the above have been duly considered.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Max Skjöldebrand". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Max Skjöldebrand