

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower, The periwinkle trailed its wreaths; And 'tis my faith that every flower Enjoys the air it breathes.

– William Wordsworth



VINEYARD

Island of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles o southeast coast of Massachusetts. Winter population, 16,535; in summer, 105,624. Twenty miles from city of New Bedford, 80 miles from Boston and 150 miles from New York.



GAZETTE

Devoted to the interest of the six towns on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, viz.: Edgartown, Oak Blu s, Tisbury (Vineyard Haven), West Tisbury, Chilmark and Aquinnah. These, with Gosnold, constitute Dukes County.



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Albert O. Fischer

Birth of a new season can be a chilly business; snow surrounds nest of mute swan eggs.

Petition for Sale of Hard Liquor in Vineyard Haven Heads to Town Meeting

By HEATHER HAMACEK

A petition drive is under way in Vineyard Haven to allow the sale of hard liquor in restaurants that are now restricted to serving beer and wine.

If a few procedural errors can be ironed out, the question will come before voters at the annual town meeting on April 12 as a first step in a process that involves petitioning the state legislature, and then returning for a second and final decision by voters in the ballot box.

The petition signed by 22 registered voters was submitted to town clerk Hillary Conklin on Jan. 12. It seeks to include an article on the annual town meeting warrant that would direct selectmen to file a home rule petition with the state legislature, as happened some six years ago when the town changed from dry to wet by voting to allow the sale of beer and wine in restaurants with 30 seats or more.

The selectmen can now issue up to 19 year-round licenses and an unlimited number of seasonal licenses for beer and wine sales with meals in qualifying restaurants. Currently there are seven year-round licenses and one seasonal license. The licenses provide revenue for the town, costing \$2,500 annually on top of a \$300 application fee.

Former Tisbury selectman and current finance committee member Je Kristal, who is a Vineyard Haven innkeeper, has been widely credited

with starting the petition, although Mr. Kristal denied that this week when speaking to the Gazette.

"I'm just interested in seeing Vineyard Haven alive again," he said.

Mr. Kristal said giving people a choice of what type of beverage they can enjoy with a meal makes sense for a tourist destination. He also said the addition of all alcoholic drinks would increase town revenue through meal taxes.

"People want to drink with dinner, they want a choice," he said.

Other petitioners include a mix of business owners and residents and one selectman — Larry Gomez. "I didn't support the

beer and wine licenses the first time around, but there haven't been problems and it brings more tax dollars into the town," Mr. Gomez said this week.

The other two selectmen are split on the question.

Chairman Tristan Israel, who is running unopposed for reelection this spring, said he opposes the initiative.

Mr. Israel agreed that there have been no problems since the town began allowing beer and wine sales in restaurants, but said he worries that expanding to all alcohol sales in restaurants will open the door to package store sales, which he does not support.

"It's working well now, and why tinker with something working well," he said.

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From Carnegie Library to Heritage Center

By SARA BROWN

Da odils were blooming in front of the red brick Carnegie library building Wednesday when Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust executive director Chris Scott put the key in the side door and stepped inside the trust's newest property.

Where others might see the remnants of the former Edgartown Library in the 112-year-old building, with empty shelves labeled Mystery and Fiction, a cleared circulation desk and lone telephone sitting on the floor, Mr. Scott and his colleagues see a reading room, displays, and exhibit spaces for their new project. In the months ahead the Carnegie building will be converted to a heritage center that will showcase the trust's 24 historic properties around the Island and the stories they tell about the Vineyard.

"Right now there's no place where people can get the story and then decide what they're interested in seeing," Mr. Scott said Wednesday during a tour of the building. He was joined by Matthew Stackpole, a maritime historian and West Tisbury resident who is working with the trust to develop the center. Mr. Stackpole recently served as the ship historian and major gifts officer at Mystic Seaport for the whaling ship Charles W. Morgan's 38th voyage.

The preservation trust's stewardship vouchsafes a bright future for the stately town building that until March 4 housed the town library. The library



Mark Lovewell

Preservation trust plans to create historical showcase in old library.

is now housed in a new, larger building next to the Edgartown School.

"We want everyone who has that sentimentality about the Carnegie to be able to come in here and enjoy it," Mr. Scott said.

Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was a seasonal Edgartown resident around the turn of the 20th century. Out of gratitude for being part of the town's summer scene, he

named Edgartown as one of thousands of communities to receive Carnegie funding for a public library. The brick building was constructed in 1904 on land donated by Caroline Osborn Warren, a descendant of the Edgartown Osborn whaling family who lived next door.

The building was expanded twice through the years but eventually the town outgrew the old library, which

lacked parking and enough space for modern needs. When funding came through to build a new library, the preservation trust expressed interest in the building. Last year at town meeting Edgartown residents unanimously approved a measure that would hand over the library to the trust.

Earlier this week the deal was formalized as Mr. Scott gave selectmen a \$1 check for the old building and the preservation trust got the keys. The trust launched a successful capital campaign for the project last year, Mr. Scott said, and has raised a substantial amount of money for the heritage center, although he declined to make the amount public yet.

On Wednesday Mr. Scott and Mr. Stackpole got a close look at what they are working with.

The front of the building, where large windows topped with fan details let in light and wood paneling lines the walls, will likely be used as a reading room and library housing a collection of what Mr. Scott called "Vineyardiana." A collection of maritime literature, books about the Vineyard and Edgartown, and books by Vineyard authors are all contemplated for the collection. Partitions dividing the front rooms from an entryway will likely be removed.

Parts of the building added on in 1938 and then later in the 1970s will be used for exhibits and information about preservation trust properties and related Island history.

Other Edgartown properties owned by the trust include the Federal style To Page Eight

The Great House In Chilmark Faces Demolition Request

By ALEX ELVIN

After several years on the market, a historic house in Chilmark thought to have been a British headquarters during Grey's Raid in 1778 may soon be torn down.

The town historical commission plans to hold a public hearing at the Chilmark town hall on March 31 at 5 p.m. to address the demolition request submitted by Catherine Fuller, whose family has owned the house since the 1960s. The home is often called the Great House, or the Benjamin Lambert-Robinson house, after its likely builder and later inhabitants.

Martha Smith, an Island broker with Jane Brown Real Estate, had the listing from around 2008 to 2012, before handing it over to another broker. She said the house was in bad shape even then and would need extensive work and a dedicated buyer.

"It's not a restoration, it's a complete rebuild," Ms. Smith told the Gazette this week.

The house is no longer on the market, but was assessed this year at \$627,700, about half its assessed value in 2011, according to the multiple listing real estate website LINK. Ms. Smith said she had listed the house for just under \$1 million prior to 2012.

The two-story antique colonial at 51 State Road dates to around 1735, and is said to have been used as a headquarters while British troops confiscated firearms, sheep and other materials

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Mark Lovewell

Thomas Broström, general manager of North America for Dong Energy.

Danish Wind Farm Builder Pitches Project to Islanders

By ALEX ELVIN

A leading Danish wind energy developer has actively begun planning for a large wind farm south of the Vineyard that could power up to half a million homes in the commonwealth.

Permitting for the multi-billion dollar project is still in the early stages, but already Dong Energy is working to make inroads in the region. Five representatives from Bay State Wind, a Dong subsidiary based in Boston, spent three days on the Vineyard this week for a publicity tour that included meetings with business leaders, government and conservation groups and Island media.

Dong has been moving away from oil and gas toward renewable energy, and now hopes to take advantage of what it sees as ideal conditions in the North-

east, company leaders said. Projects on the Massachusetts and New Jersey coasts would mark its entry into the U.S. wind energy market.

In April 2015 Dong acquired a federal lease for 187,500 acres 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. The company took over a lease from RES America Development Inc., which paid \$281,285 to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The entire federal wind energy area covers more than 1,000 square miles. The Vineyard is the closest landfall.

The company had a cool reception early this year when a Dong representative met with fishermen and others to begin planning for an initial survey of

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A portal to Island history.

Preservation Trust to Write Next Chapter for Old Carnegie Library

From Page One

home built by Dr. Daniel Fisher, a whaling ship owner; the Norton boathouse, the last sea captain's and fisherman's boathouse on the harbor; the pre-Revolutionary-era building on South Summer street that houses the Vineyard Gazette; and the Old Sculpin Gallery, where Manuel Swartz Roberts operated a wooden boat shop. The trust also owns the Edwina B., one of Mr. Swartz's catboats.

Other trust properties around the Island include Alley's General Store in West Tisbury, the Flying Horses Carousel and Union Chapel in Oak Bluffs, and Slip Away Farm on Chappaquiddick.

The properties span major periods of social activity on the Vineyard, Mr. Scott said, from farming to whaling, fishing and yachting, agriculture and tourism. The goal of the new center is to use trust properties, and more information about their histories, as a portal to parts of Vineyard history.

"It's such a great vision," Mr. Stackpole said. "That's the great thing about this Island — it reflects so many parts of human history. We've got it all here, so let's flaunt it. Let's celebrate it."

Mr. Scott and Mr. Stackpole have taken guidance from the Penobscot Marine

Museum in Searsport, Me., where Mr. Stackpole's brother is the former director. They've also visited the Nantucket Historical Association and New Bedford for a look at "how different communities present themselves and how visitors get



Architect Patrick Ahearn is working on plans for the building.



Pictures by Mark Lovewill

Maritime historian Matthew Stackpole and Chris Scott, executive director Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust.

the story," Mr. Scott said.

The heritage center will complement existing Island resources, Mr. Scott said,

including the Martha's Vineyard Museum and its collections.

Architect Patrick Ahearn, a trust board member, is working on plans for the building. Renovations will focus solely on the interior, with exterior walls left alone. Renovation work will likely begin this summer. "We want to take our lead from some of the components of the original building and then bring them through," Mr. Scott said. He added that "getting rid of the 70s and 80s" might be a priority.

The trust will work closely with exhibit designers to make the newer back portion of the building suitable for exhibits. Mr. Scott is hoping to find hardwood flooring under the carpet.

A collection of artwork by the late Ray Ellis is planned for the new center.

And plans for the Carnegie building will stay true to the preservation trust mission of using historic properties for their original intended uses.

"What is a library? A library is a portal into knowledge and being exposed to things, and that will happen here," Mr. Stackpole said. "It will be different, a variation, but the spirit of it is the same.

There's a continuity of mission."

Mr. Stackpole said he sees continuity with the Charles W. Morgan project, which ended when the 170-year-old ship sailed again two years ago.

"The fragility of history is all around us," Mr. Stackpole said. "To have something that's live, like the Morgan . . . look at the changes all around us. Around the Island are these places that are still here, still functioning as a vital part of the community, and it's because of the trust," he added.

"It's a broad effort," Mr. Scott said.

"Here we are, right here at the beginning," Mr. Stackpole said in the library Wednesday. "What a thrilling thing to be a part of."

Before taking stewardship of new buildings, Mr. Scott said: "You kind of have a vision, talking about a property, what it's going to be. And that phase of the process ends and then you put the key in the door for the first time and you walk in and say ah, goodness, there's a lot of work to be done."

But looking at the Carnegie, he said: "I actually can kind of see what it's going to look like in my mind's eye."