



RECEIVED JUL 1 - 2014

Brookmead Farm,
22 New Marlborough Road,
Monterey,
MA 01245

Dear Select Board,

We have been reading the minutes of the Select Board meeting of 6/23/2014 and the attachment relating to the Historical Commission. We had never before heard of the Macris list on which our home seems to feature; at the time of our purchase of the home in 2001 our attorney did not communicate to us and/or find that the house we were buying was so listed, and this fact has never been communicated to us.

We are disturbed to read that the Chairman of the previously dormant Historical Commission is seeking a more activist role. A lot has changed since 1974 in terms of construction methods, code requirements and building costs. Also the real estate market has changed and now tends to place a higher value on new homes and price older homes at a discount, largely because of the high cost of repair and maintenance of older homes.

In our case we have spent a substantial amount of money in renovating and preserving a historical house and barns that were in grave disrepair. We did this in accordance with code and with all necessary permits and at greater cost than new building.

We are strongly opposed to any further impediments being placed on the owners of older houses in Monterey. Instead we would propose that since so much has changed since 1974, the Select Board explore amending the by-laws to abolish the Historical Commission.

We would presume that the Wilson McLaughlin House plans would also be affected by greater restrictions, as well as being at risk of the possible retrospective (after-the-fact) legal actions that the Chairman's letter hints at.

Finally, we would be curious to know whether the Chairman of the Historical Commission who has made these proposals owns a home on the Macris list and so would be impacted by the changes he is proposing.

Signed,

Christa and Ian Lindsay