

Annual Meeting  
Martha's Vineyard Museum  
August 8, 2016  
Marine Hospital Lawn

- Welcome to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of MVM
- I am Elizabeth Beim, Board Chair, and it terrific to see such a good turn out.
- First order of business is to seek approval of the minutes from the last Annual Meeting ....it is this sheet that was enclosed with your program: discussion? Vote aye/nay
- This is the last year I will be serving as Chair of the Board. I have been a Board member since 2003 and have served two three-year terms as Board Chair: 2008-2011 and 2013-present.
- It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the nominee for the next Board Chair is  
Stever Aubrey: .....now a word about Stever....we had a quiet discussion about this possibility last spring at a breakfast at the Black Dog, I told him that I had identified my successor and of course, he was curious as to who that might be. I told him I was looking at him!! At the end of the discussion, he did not say "yes;" however, he did not say "no". Needless to say I was overjoyed when he finally did give me the green light that he would agree to be the nominee for Board Chair. Stever has been a successful senior executive with extensive operations and marketing experience. Lucky for us he and his wife Elsie have recently moved to the Vineyard.
- The slate of new officers will be presented for election at the Board meeting on August 17.
- I will continue to serve as Chair of the Capital Campaign and work closely with the new Board Chair, the Executive Director and the development staff.
- Given the incredible changes that have taken place over the past 10 years, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the astonishing pace of events that have transpired.
- This is an institution that began its life as the Dukes County Historical Society in 1922 and changed its name to the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society in 1996 and further to the Martha's Vineyard Museum in 2006.
- As steward of the Martha's Vineyard's cultural history, it became clear to me and to others early on .....that the top priority for the institution was to find a

new home for the collection. A home that would provide more museum quality space for storage and its growing collections and a home that would have greater visibility and accessibility.

- After a few false starts, the opportunity to purchase the Marine Hospital.....then well hidden behind many trees ...was brought to our attention by a board member who lives on Hines Point
- The Marine Hospital property was clearly a winner: ....high on a hill overlooking Vineyard Haven Harbor... in close proximity to the ferry ....located in the heart of Vineyard Haven that is a year-round active community ... this four acre site was clearly a magnificent location that would provide adequate space to meet museum needs....and above all .....the Marine Hospital was truly an historic building!
- The first order of the day was due diligence. There were important meetings with the members of the Board and the staff. A feasibility study was undertaken and a strategic plan developed. There were meetings with the selectmen of Vineyard Haven and with the neighbors who abutt property. The response on all fronts was favorable.
- The next task was to find the financial resources to purchase the property. Thanks to the support of three angels, we were able to do so in 2011. Two of those three angels are in the audience today, and I personally salute you not only for your unbelievable generosity but your faith in our ability to succeed and your willingness to take a risk to make that critically important investment in 2011. It was a hallmark moment for the museum.
- Moving forward, the capital campaign began in earnest, new staff was hired, and plans for the new building were begun. The museum grew into a more professional institution and every effort was made to build up the Board with individuals who would “pull their oar” to achieve the goals set for the future success of the Martha’s Vineyard Museum.
- So what is the state of the union?
- The private phase of the Capital Campaign is closing in on \$14 million. I can assure you that this would not have happened without the generous support of many people in this room. These were individuals who believed that good stewardship of Martha’s Vineyard cultural history was izxxxmportant and were willing to make an early investment to help make that happen.
- The Public Phase of the Campaign is now underway with new branding and exciting, new promotional materials. Hat! We have a new logo and new

mission: To inspire all people to discover, explore, strengthen their connections with this island and its diverse heritage.

- MVM's endowment currently stands at just over a half million dollars and we expect to meet the 3:1 match of a NEH \$500,000 Challenge Grant that will result in a \$2 million Endowment dedicated to education.
- The Master Plan for the new campus is completed and we plan to begin the first phase of construction in early 2017. We plan to have a public opening of the renovated Marine Hospital building in the spring of 2018.
- To meet our project needs for the first phase of this project, we need to raise another \$2.5 million by year-end. We hope we can count on your continued support.
- Now it is my pleasure to introduce our new Executive Director Phil Wallis.
- Phil is a graduate of Princeton and Wharton. For the past 30 years, he has worked for not-for-profit institutions including eight years at the Nature Conservancy and nine years as executive director of the Pennsylvania program of the National Audubon Society. He is no stranger to the Vineyard having been coming to the Vineyard for some fifty years visiting family and friends.