

## VINEYARD TRUST NAMES NEW CHAIRPERSON AND REVAMPS BOARD GOVERNANCE

### *Community support steps up for Whaling Church Restoration; Marquee Trust Properties Breaking Records; Alleys Restoration Nears Completion*

- John Klein named new Board Chair
- Five board committees established
- Executive Director search underway
- Grass roots campaign ensures The Old Whaling Church restoration
- Fall weddings fully booked at The Old Whaling Church
- Flying Horses rides up vs. 2019 July levels
- Carnegie visitor traffic up 5x vs. 2020
- Union Chapel celebrates 150 Years of worship
- New Alley's management gears up for re-opening

**Edgartown, MA – July 27, 2021** - New officers were elected at the annual Vineyard Trust meeting this month. John Klein, a long-time active member of the Vineyard community, was elected as the new Chair of the Board. Klein is a deeply experienced Chief Executive having led and chaired several public companies. Locally, he has chaired the Martha's Vineyard YMCA Advisory Board since its inception while also playing an active leadership role in fundraising.

In addition to the appointment of Klein, new Executive Committees were established to ensure operational transparency and to include broader representation from the Island community. The committees are: Finance and Audit, Properties, Special Events, Trustees and Governance, and Community Outreach. A Search Committee was also formed to recruit a new Executive Director who must commit to being a resident of Martha's Vineyard. The job description can be found at [vineyardtrust.org](http://vineyardtrust.org).

"I could not be prouder to take on the leadership role for this most important island organization," said Klein. "The preservation and active use of the Trust's iconic properties are a critical part of our island's culture, heritage and future. I look forward to applying my executive experience to work with our staff and Board to ensure that the Trust is open, transparent and well governed in all we do."

"The community support for our properties and mission is evidenced by a grass roots fundraising campaign underway to ensure the restoration of The Old Whaling Church with work commencing in October," Klein added.

"We are thrilled to have John take on this role and grateful to our Board members for their leadership and participation in our newly structured committees," said Interim

Vineyard Trust President Sally Rorer. “With summer in full swing and a busy fall ahead, the activity at our properties is breaking pre-Covid levels.”

“The restoration work and structural repairs at Alley’s General Store, owned by the Trust since 1993, have been completed with the focus now on finishing touches, installations and stocking in preparation for a grand re-opening in the near future,” Rorer added.

Michael Levandowski, the owner of LeRoux, who has assumed the Alley’s lease, stated “April and I are delighted to have the opportunity to operate this iconic island general store and we look forward to welcoming the community when we open.”

### **About Vineyard Trust**

The Martha’s Vineyard Preservation Trust, known as the Vineyard Trust, owns and maintains 20 historic properties central to the island community. Through its stewardship, Vineyard Trust strengthens and cultivates community, celebrates the island’s unique character, and ensures that these invaluable assets remain landmarks for life.

For more information:

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