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The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association (CCCHFA) today indicated that it has been given an exclusive option to renovate the former LaRose property at 1566 Main St in West Chatham. Owner David Oppenheim approached the organization, seeking to find a suitable non-profit business user for the 100-year-old Captain Nathan Harding house. After a tour of the property by several of its Board of Directors and staff, CCCHFA quickly confirmed its interest to renovate the property for use as its headquarters, which are now located in North Chatham.

CCCHFA President Peter Taylor stressed that discussions are preliminary but the organization is delighted to have been approached. "We have only just begun to consider various design options how to use the house, and obviously it will require a significant fund raising effort on our part. We look forward to working with Mr. Oppenheim, the town and local residents to ensure that the house is renovated and preserved in a manner that we all can be proud of. We are very grateful to be considered the first choice to use this historic property", he said.

The two and one half story structure with attached barn at the end of Barnhill Rd. opposite the SouWester has been subject to rumor and speculation for several years. The century-old home is in extremely good and well preserved condition, although the town at one point some years ago actually tried to condemn the property. It is envisioned that the site will provide CCCHFA with headquarters and meeting space. Mr. Oppenheim has offered to sell the building to the CCCHFA for the price of restoration. "The only non-negotiable is that the exterior of the house be properly preserved. Nothing would please my wife and me more than to see this building brought back to life and then returned to active use by an organization which is fighting to protect Chatham's oldest industry", commented Oppenheim.

Susan Nickerson, newly hired Executive Director of the CCCHFA said, "This is an incredible opportunity that could serve both the interests of the Hook Association and the community very well. Once we have more details about the plans for the structure, and our organization occupying it, we look forward to sharing those with the community, especially residents of West Chatham."

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