
Feldman Architecture

To whom it may concern,

It might not be obvious to the person who commented, but no one wants the project to be completed more than Emily and myself, the homeowners. We have pushed and pushed to complete the project despite many setbacks and obstacles outside of our control.

On the "piecemeal" comment, the land on which the pool house and barn would be situated was only acquired as part of a lot line adjustment with the neighbor in 2022 (so by definition it could not have been part of our original project submission in 2020). We started the design of the pool house in August 2024, and are going as quickly as we can through the approval and permitting process. Do we wish it could have been permitted last fall and completed now? Of course. But it's just not possible.

With respect to the vineyard - this has been a 3 year planning and approval process. We pushed to complete all of the reviews and approvals to plant in spring 2024, but final approval only came in August 2024 (and thus our planting was delayed to this spring). Again - this was not for lack of effort on our part.

I would also point out that the property burned completely in the Glass fire of 2020. We undertook (at great expense) to clean up the ~5 acres that had burned to accelerate natural regeneration. We chipped and dispersed the burned trees (instead of burning - to avoid carbon release), and we milled the larger trees into lumber that we used (again to avoid carbon release). We also went to great lengths to try and preserve the remaining damaged (but not dead) oak trees, including several which anchored the entire site plan. We have watched (with great distress) those trees slowly die over the last 5 years from the fire damage.

We also were thoughtful in the design and approaches for the house. A few examples: we right sized the buildings to our needs, we chose building techniques that minimize environmental impact and carbon footprint, we designed to higher energy efficiency than is required, and we tried to reuse materials from the site. This thoughtful approach is one of the key reasons we selected Feldman as our architect.

We did all of this out of love for the property and to build something great for ourselves and our children, while being thoughtful about the environment. We have also invested a lot in this community during this project's lifespan including putting our kids in school here for a couple years and consistently over the summer and relocating my parents here long term. As a result there are dozens of people who would show up and speak to our long-term commitment and contributions here, not just as 'weekend people'. The suggestion that we're after a "quick buck" in building a vacation rental is simply unwarranted.

- Sebastien, & Emily.