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MINUTES
of the
Sandwich Historical Commission
Public Forum on the
Sand Hill School Clark-Haddad Memorial Building
Meeting date: March 24, 2012

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at the Sandwich Town Hall by the Facilitator, Ellen Carlson at 2:30 PM.

Members Present: Terry Blake, Ellen Carlson, Jonathan Shaw, Carolyn Crowell, Don Bayley, and Jennifer Madden

Also Present: Two members of the Sandwich Board of Selectmen were present in the audience, Linell Grundman and John Keenan.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks: Terry Blake opened the forum with public welcome and brief remarks upon the importance of public schools and participation in the heritage of our town.

2. History of the Clark-Haddad Memorial Building: Jonathan Shaw described the history of the building and its relation to the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, Jarvesville, and the town.

3. Public Forum: There were approximately fifty citizens in attendance during the forum. Almost all had some remarks for the public. The general consensus was in favor of retaining the building in town ownership and to preserve the historical features. Selectman, Linell Grundman, was helpful in clarifying the Town's position regarding the future of the building and describing funding mechanisms for public projects.

Flip Chart Notes on Comments of the Public:

- Building must be preserved due to its unique history in the community.
- Opportunity for people to learn about community history – a place for archives
- Preservation important to town for unique qualities and history – requires public action – concerned that it may not be preserved for a public purpose by private interests
- The benefit of putting it back on the tax rolls could be nullified by its possible use as a family home and the costs that are associated with it.
- The building could be used as a museum or a small hall.
- We have lost much of historic Sandwich in the past 50 years.
- The building's connection to the site is important – sacred connection; part of its history.
- There is no real sense of how big the glass industry was in Sandwich – little to no physical places remain in the neighborhood – Jarvesville is a good example of early industrial development.
- Community should look at ways to make the Sand Hill School a reminder of the presence of the glass industry (exhibits, maps, dioramas).

- Suggestion that town should acquire parcels on Boardwalk Road (which parcels?) to better interpret landscape of industry
- Focus on the industrial worker/ working housing
- Museum focused on Jarvesville/ centralized archives – take advantage of alternative sources of funding (CPC, etc.)
- Preserve school because of connection to the past; a cultural center would be a good use for this building (similar to Yarmouth Art and History)
- Concerned about money for turning that building. Need to be realistic about cost. Appearance must be improved now.
- Make use of the talents and skills of faculty and students at the tech school to preserve building
- Addressing concerns that the private sector does not consider public needs, it was pointed out that some there is much private influence in preservation (e.g. Thornton Burgess)
- The town cannot preserve this building alone – need a private/ public partnership at a minimum. Concerned about the huge amount of money needed for deferred maintenance.
- Unlikely that town meeting will support preservation.
- There are obstacles – CPC funds are dwindling. People in the school system thought the building could be used as an Education Center at the time that the School Administration moved out.
- There is a glut of fund raising activity occurring in town.
- Think long term in any proposal – life cycle and operating costs must be considered.
- Private sector can be a force for preservation – finding the right buyer
- Agrees that setting is important
- The historic character and long standing preservation efforts in the town have supported the business environment; the town should support the elements that attract visitors. Need a pragmatic evaluation of what the building needs to continue in use.
- Concerned about only protecting the front façade of the building – Linnell Grundman responded that the details of the preservation easement have yet to be determined.
- Will the school administration need more room if the school system is reorganized? Could CPC money be used for rehousing them at the Sand Hill School?
- What about leasing? A “triple net lease” under which the lessee makes improvements/ undertakes restoration
- Curatorship – bring someone in to preserve the building; generate agreement for use and preservation of the building, possibly including a public access component.
- Consider timeframes/ action steps for various methods for preserving/ reusing the property.
- This site is in the Village Growth Center – the property has a role to play and be eligible for other pots of money as an economic development driver
- Not just preservation – lever for economic development
- Need to do more to inform the public about maintenance work being accomplished or needed on all town assets.
- Could there be a citizen work day to clean up the Sand Hill School? Linnell Grundman offered to look into this.
- Public/private partnerships are not necessarily spearheaded by the business community, could be much broader like a Friends group.

- When the building was first vacated, an RFP was issued but not viable ideas came at that time.
- Warren Blake has offered to replace broken window panes in the Sand Hill School.
- Terry Blake will spearhead a volunteer effort to clean up the building.
- Lease to property manager/ retain historic character; allow them to lease the building; possible professional use; enables town to retain long-term interest in the building.

4. Volunteers to Help Maintain Clark-Haddad Memorial Building: Terry Blake made a call for volunteers to help perform urgent maintenance on the building that has been neglected by the town. The following citizens signed up.

Warren Blake
Barbara Shaner
Lisa & David Hassler
Chris Roller

Jim & Pat Rogers
Gayle Potichny
Bill & Jerry Collins
Don Bayley

Jennifer & Parke Madden
Ross Vander Pyl
Ellen Carlson

9. Adjournment: There being no further requests to speak, the meeting adjourned at 4:15.



Terry Blake, Chair

April 3, 2012