

Minutes

SACRED HEART REUSE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The Sacred Heart Reuse Committee ("SHRC") held its fourth meeting on April 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Members present were: Stephen Carter, John Davis, Rita Fontes, Ed Keenan and Irene McCarthy.

On the previous Thursday, April 10, 2008, the SHRC conducted a site visit of the premises at Cedar Street, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All members were present. The Committee toured and examined the inside of the structure in the company of Eric Hooper, Superintendent of the Public Works Department, then walked around the perimeter of the exterior. Stephen Carter took photographs.

On Wednesday, April 16, Gregory Meister, the Conservation Commission Administrator, met with the Committee for approximately 45 minutes. He detailed the history of the 21-unit condominium proposal for the site rejected by Town Meeting in 1987. After the Haley & Aldrich groundwater assessment revealed that wastewater could endanger wellhead No. 3 (in the Sandy Ridge Circle/Farnham Road neighborhood), the proposal was quashed.

Mr. Meister explained that Parcel N is restricted for use as "outdoor recreation." This restriction, he said, is reflected in a Town Meeting vote dated March 21, 2002, and in contemporary Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. The property was part of a land swap with another 91-acre parcel, and once considered a possible site for a combined senior center/indoor recreation facility.

The existing structure abuts a 100' buffer zone surrounding the adjacent pond. The pond itself is spring-fed, and has no known inlets or outlets. Over time, it appears to be shrinking in size. Mr. Meister showed the SHRC several topographical maps of the location.

The Committee requests clarification on use restrictions. John Davis will speak with Town Counsel and report back. Irene McCarthy will contact Jennifer Soper at the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. She will also invite Henry Katz, former Chairman of the Sharon BOS, to attend our next meeting. Ed Keenan will invite Michael Baskin to meet with us as well.

The Committee discussed the need for formulating criteria regarding future use proposals. The question of whether the existing structure must be demolished also requires further study. Although the Board of Selectmen described the structure as a liability, rather than an asset, no documentation to this effect has been viewed by the Committee. Stephen Carter will contact Joseph Kent, the Sharon Building Inspector, to inquire about the availability of floor plans or other documentation.

The SHRC adjourned at approximately 8:48 p.m.