

## Minutes

### SACRED HEART REUSE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

The Sacred Heart Reuse Committee ("SHRC") held its eighth meeting on June 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Members present were: Stephen Carter, John Davis, Rita Fontes, Ed Keenan and Irene McCarthy.

Two area residents attended the meeting in response to a recent mailing – Jeff Sweet (90 Cedar Street) and David Aschaffenburg (Beach Street). Mr. Sweet has lived in Sharon for 22 years. His primary concerns over future use of the Sacred Heart property are traffic, parking and hours of operation. Neighbors have put up with "a lot," he said, when it comes to the site. Over the years, the former school premises have been used for recreation, circuses, carnivals and, at times, as a catch-all for litter. At present, the parking rules are not enforced and the skateboard park (in operation for the past ten to twelve years) remains unsupervised. It would be a mistake, he suggested, if parking was made accessible by an entrance on Cedar Street. He hopes any use to which the property is eventually put is a "quiet" one. He favors construction of a year-round swimming pool, provided the hours of operation are reasonable.

David Aschaffenburg explained that the baseball fields across from the Sacred Heart property are busy throughout the spring, summer and fall. Such three-season use places a great demand on available parking in the area and contributes to local traffic. Mr. Aschaffenburg also favors construction of a swimming pool. At present, members of the Sharon High School swim team are bussed to Randolph High School for practices and meets. Because the High School swim team competes in winter (when the baseball ball fields are not in use), team pool use would not place an undue strain on available parking. Sharon also has a very active recreational swimming program. Mr. Aschaffenburg estimated that approximately 160 youngsters (from grades six through twelve) pay a \$150 annual fee to participate in that program. Local participation would likely increase if the Town had its own indoor pool. A pool could also be rented out to raise revenue, and be used for local meets and competitions, other aquatic programs, and swimming lessons.

The Committee thanked Mr. Sweet and Mr. Aschaffenburg for their attendance and their insights. The Committee will attempt to speak with Joseph Kent (Sharon Building Inspector) and Brett MacGowan (Recreation Director) in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.