



Received For Record At Plainfield CT

On 2/17/2022 @ 8:25 pm

Attest: Dianne Talbot
Town Clerk

Town of Plainfield – Public Informational Discussion

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:30pm

A public informational discussion was held on Thursday, February 10th at 6:30pm at the Town Hall auditorium to discuss the history of the PHS Annex, and where the building stands and its possible disposition.

Due to being a public informational meeting there was no need for a moderator, and First Selectman Kevin Cunningham started the meeting. There were handouts for the public to view, which included cost estimated for repair in 2018, cost estimates for repair in 2022, an example of annual maintenance if the building was repaired, an estimated for bonding costs and estimated annual tax increases per household, as well as an estimate for the demolition of the building. Kyle Collins then shared a video presentation and narrated during the video.

Kevin Cunningham asked that if there was anyone who wished to speak, please do so at the microphone and give comment questions or concerns at this time.

Madeline Krecidlo asked why the town has not mothballed the building, and has the town not considered selling the building.

Paul Sweet had concerns about funding a repair of a building that the town doesn't need. He stated there was no offset to the cost of the building, that it would be a money pit, and that he would lead the opposition of bonding the building if it was put to a referendum. He stated the building has no utilities, no heat, no power source, no water, and no electricity, and he would not support paying for the building being fixed up.

Eleanor Jolley stated she wanted to take down the building all the way to green grass.

Virginia Sampietro asked for help in finding monies in a federal grant to save the annex.

Taylor Jackola spoke about saving the Annex, its historic value to the town and that with the possible destruction of All Hallows, St. Joe's, and other historic building that we consider saving the Annex and possibly use it as a community/recreation/library for the town.

Mary Ann Chinatti said the demolition of the Annex does not fit the Plan of Conservation and Development. She stated that there may be more funding to save the building, and that we need to look into the possibility of using the building for educational use like a trade school.

Michael Broughton spoke as he is a member of the Plainfield BOE, and said the current Plainfield High School already has trades offer at the high school with Manufacturing and CNA courses currently.

Adrian Paulson asked about the quality of life to make a plan for the building, if it's worth it to pay \$400 a year for a community center, and asked if the town has any interested business partners.

Daniel Reale stated that this building is a disaster waiting to happen, and wanted to set a referendum to take the building down.

Danae Poppie said that once seeing the costs that it's time to take the building down. She would like the town to consider saving something from the building.

Chris Barber asked if over the years if anyone has asked to purchase the building. Paul Sweet stated two people were interested in purchase but he couldn't get anyone to make an offer, and Cathy Tendrich stated just one person but had no offer either. Chris stated that the town already has building for our current needs and that this building is dangerous and needs to come down.

Art Gagne said that when the original building committee met that the state gave the town permission to remove the building from the historic register. He also said that there are many other things the town will be bonding that are more important seeing the costs that it's time to take the building down. She would like the town to consider saving something from the building.

Daniel Reale said that this site should be considered a brownfield.

Jennie Kapszukiewicz said that while she prefers older structures this building is at a point of no return and should be demolished.

Taylor Jackola asked if there is a blight ordinance, and wanted to know if saved could this building be used as a community center or recreation/library.

Naomi Smith said that the town should be searching for USDA grant to save it.

Ruth Burgeron stated that this building was the first high school in the town. She asked if there might be some way to preserve it for possible future uses, and if not is there a way to preserve the façade.

Renee` Tribertt stated she is a member of Preservation Connecticut and would like to preserve the building for the community, would help work on a roadmap for adaptive reuse, search for grant funding and work on facility planning.

Daniel Reale said in response to Preservation Connecticut that has been done many times before, over and over.

Adrian Paulson asked if the town has considered a Facebook study.

Ruth Bergeron said that no matter what there needs to be a timeline for resolution.

Robert Smith stated that this town offers nothing and that all the towns around us are doing something, and he wants the town to consider doing something.

Rick Martel said as a building inspector and a woodworker that this building is no longer historic. The windows were replaced with aluminum windows, the roof has been redone, and the wood is all rotting and cement has fallen throughout the building. He stated that the building is no longer safe and he believes the town should take it down.

Daniel Reale stated that this issue has been discussed again, again, and again and that it's time to make a decision to go to referendum.

Eleanor Jolley mentioned that grants come from the government and that we all pay for them no matter what.

Linda Fedor discussed fiscal responsibility and that we need to get out and vote to take it down as it's not a good investment or a good return on our investment.

Daniel Reale stated that he would like the town to voice their opinion and make a plan to demolish.

Wally Cwynar wants to see a survey and know the pros and cons of what keeping the building or demolishing it would be. Wally stated that his Conservation Commission had 117 replies.

Kevin Cunningham thanked everyone for the comment and polite discourse during the meeting and stated that the board of Selectmen will review the discussion of this evening and look to further the thoughts from this evening at a near future Board of Selectmen meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Cunningham

Acting Secretary