

TROY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting  
November 17, 1979  
City Hall

Meeting Called To Order: 8:00 pm

Present: Fellrath, Dill, Scott, Holdberg, Midgley

Absent: Markey, Stickel, Renshaw

MINUTES

Moved by Scott  
Supported by Holdberg

RESOLVED: That the minutes of October 3, 1979 be approved.  
Yeas: All-5

OLD BUSINESS

Poppleton School - Scott presented a report on. Copy enclosed.

Moved by Scott  
Supported by Midgley

RESOLVED: In light of the enclosed information, that we rescind our previous action on the moving of Poppleton proposed on July 11, 1979.  
Yeas: 4 Nay: 1 (Fellrath) for reason that the motion is premature.  
Absent: Markey, Stickel, Renshaw

Moved by Fellrath  
Supported by Dill

RESOLVED: That we request the City advise the Historic District Commission after the feasibility study is complete, but prior to the letting of any contracts or preparations of any specifications for the moving of Poppleton School, so that we may consider them for approval.  
Yeas: All-5  
Absent: Markey, Stickel, Renshaw

Gow Property - Reiteration of our support regarding the concept of the proposed use of the property before the Council for consideration at this time. We have no objection to the use providing the proposal meets all the criteria put forth by the Council, the Code Enforcement Agency and stays within the confines of Chapter 13.

9-1

Markers: The Secretary was directed by the Chairman to contact the City regarding the Historical Marker for the Green.

Suggestion to pursue informational markers for the Halsey (Jiggins) House and Sylvan Glen as they have undergone such drastic changes.

Secretary also directed to contact the Ad Hoc Committee for the Wattles House regards meeting Wednesday, November 21, 1979.

Moved by Fellrath  
Supported by Midgley

To adjourn: 9:12 pm

Yeas: All-5  
Absent: Markey, Stickel, Renshaw

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1979, CITY HALL

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Midgley  
Secretary

MM/csw

In regards to the reopening of the Poppleton School moving question, I have gathered some information that has been available, but has never been a matter of discussion at any of the meetings that I have attended. The only thing that I have heard since the Bi-Centennial has been to move, move, move, and I am asking why, why, why!

1. The estimated price for the moving of the school is approximately \$100 to \$160 thousand dollars, or more as opposed to on-site restoration of \$40,000 (This price to include furnace, wiring, rest room facilities, alarm, and fence). With today's economy, I am convinced that the local citizenry will be up in arms regarding the price tag to move a structure that is perfectly stable and safe where it stands.

2. According to the engineering people the structure is safe and sound and will withstand any amount of traffic that passes in front. It is as secure as any of the present day structures. Also, having the necessary front yard set back parking was presented as a problem. I have taken the time to go to the site, accompanied by people with technical knowledge regarding measurements, and came away feeling good about space enough for 25 or more cars, which we felt was more than adequate, and plenty of parking and turn around space for buses. The distance of entry into traffic is sufficient. The school being 26 feet from the north edge of the sidewalk and to the first lane of traffic (after widening Big Beaver Road), is approximately 46 feet.

3. According to the State of Michigan History Division, Mr. Les Volmart who viewed the structure states: "The Poppleton School is a fine example of late Victorian, a one-room schoolhouse in nearly original condition. The building is eligible for listing on the State Register and also the National Register. If listed in either, or both, the structure is eligible to apply for grants for restoration and repair from either the State Register Grant program or the National Register Grant Program.....Moving the building would definately injure its ability to be listed. If the building was dissembled brick-by-brick and re-erected it would definately not qualify. We feel that unless it is in imminent danger of destruction on its present site, it should remain where it is."

According to the transcript of the February 24, 1976 meeting of the Bi-Centennial Committee: "It was discovered by the Major Projects Subcommittee that technicalities of moving Poppleton School raised several doubts as to the feasibility of moving the school. It was just too heavy to cross I-75, and the structure itself might not survive the move."

4. Some say Poppleton School is out of its environment on Big Beaver Road, I submit it will be out of its environment if it is taken from its present site. The contrast between old and new is not offensive. The cost of maintaining Poppleton School will be the same on, or off the Green. The estimated utility costs for a year are approximately \$300. - \$500. which includes gas hear, electricity and water. This will not enter the problem of moving as the cost is the same no matter where it is.

5. Staffing was presented as another problem with leaving it on-site. If the structure was opened to the public en-mass for special functions, it would not have to be manned as much as the Green does. A historic structure does not have to be on the Green to allow full viewing or use.

6. If the City decides to put the proceeds from the sale of the land towards moving Poppleton School (50,000 original investment plus \$6,000 - today's market value) where is the remaining balance of \$104,000 to come from? This is a foreboding amount for even the Historical Society to accumulate. The citizens are experiencing financial instability at this time and the strain is overwhelming. I am sure our City Fathers can find a better channel for \$104,000 and this is contingent upon the stability of the weather, labor and available supplies and never the true bottom line. Plus the fact that a historical grant would practically pay our cost. Reconstruction of the original building will prove a difficult and expensive task.

IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE ORIGINAL BUILDING, THEN WHAT DO WE HAVE?

In closing, I would like to say that if we let the moving of Poppleton School get by us, we will have lost all consciousness of historic preservation as a District Commission and as a District Commission we should stand guard for what is left in Troy. Every structure cannot and should not be moved to the Green. The Green originally was intended for structures slated for demolition (this was stated back in the beginning of historical interests). We need historical structures throughout the city. I have submitted this information as a concerned preservationist and not as a purist for there is nothing left in Troy to be pure about.

Therefore, I move, in light of the above information, that we rescind our previous action on the moving of Poppleton School as proposed on July 1, 1979.

Attached: Inventory nomination form dated February 5, 1976.

Submitted by,

Dorothy Scott

DM/csw