

DEMOLITION REVIEW COMMITTEE
64 WARRENS TREET
MINUTES
JULY 21 2016

Members present: Chair Fred Richards, Dr. Bryan Tolles, and Phil Donovan. Also present Joel Ekstrom, property owner and Craig Walker Zoning Administrator.

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm.

Fred Richards showed a power point presentation showing the buildings. The building probably dates from the mid 1800's rather than 1880 as shown on the assessor's records. The additions were put on at a later date. The vertical cut saw marks in the beams show early sawmill cutting.

Joel Ekstrom said that the initial demolition has shown that the structure is not worth saving. The cost of repairs outweighs the return on their investment.

Dr. Bryant asked when it was last used. (Approximately 2 years ago.) (Joel) It trashed when the tenants left. There been problems with squatters?

Joel Ekstrom noted that he is not happy about tearing the house down. He spent a lot of time working on it when he was in high school.

Fred Richards commented on the desire to preserve and reuse structures.

Jayme Simoes, an abutter at 47 Warren Street which is across the street asked what the proposal for the future would be.

Joel Ekstrom stated that he wanted to remove the building and leave a vacant lot. There are no solid plans for future redevelopment.

Jayme Simoes had a few comments: 1. "Block of opportunity"; 2. Chance for affordable housing; 3. SEIU remove the building on North Main Street and replaced it with a fence and weeds; 4. He would like to see better vision for the block before the building is removed and lost forever.

Joel Ekstrom stated that there are possible future plans to utilize the lot. Conceptual stage only and it is too soon to discuss the plans openly.

Phil Donovan asked if they would use the lot for a driveway to access parking lot.

Joel Ekstrom stated that it would not happen anytime soon. It is a part of a larger idea that is still formulating.

Fred Richards stated that they have reviewed the purpose of the demolition review committee. He would like to go on record that the committee opposes the demolition but understands the need of the owner to be able to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.