

Concerns raised about old buildings

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that something — other than preservation — may happen to the farm buildings, said Dan Burnett, historic district commissioner. "We're asking do you want the buildings preserved?"

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi said, "At this point, there is no position on this council."

Councilman Terry Sever, however, acknowledged that some have been concerned that the buildings would be torn down. "If we're going to invest that kind of money (\$50,000 for the barn), we're not interested in tearing it down."

Councilman Larry Lichtman offered a different opinion. "I want to wait until I hear the report from the ad hoc committee," he said. "I'm not sure the city should keep handcuffing itself into a certain use or type of use. Maybe we should keep our options open."

AGAIN, COUNCILWOMAN Nancy Bates suggested that the historic district commission and ad hoc working farm group meet. She also made it clear — in light of controversy over a proposed wetlands replacement plan on Peltz-MDOT property — that the council would not overstep a committee. Some members of the ad hoc Peltz-MDOT committee have been angry because the council made proposed plans for wetlands replacement without first contacting members.

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Councilman Terry Sever

"We're not going to do it," Bates said.

The previous week, Vagnozzi suggested that the historic district commission could get the ball rolling on the lengthy historic designation process. When reports and public hearings for the designation are complete, the council could then delay a final decision if the working farm hasn't completed its work.

Sever and councilman Ben Marks were the only ones who supported that idea. The rest of the council would not wait.

Moehlman told the council Monday that the working farm committee can use the buildings and do what they want to the interiors as long as the exteriors are not changed. She restated her concern that the buildings be preserved.

Costick assured her that if the buildings were to be demolished, the request would have to come before the city council because they must authorize a budget for the process.

Gag order? Chairman is 'official' speaker

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think it was handled as well as it could have," Smith said, adding that she obviously is offering her opinion after the fact.

Ad hoc member Dennis Fitzgerald, chairman of the parks and recreation commission, criticized the media for its involvement in the latest controversy over Peltz-MDOT.

"Headlines are what gets people's attention," Fitzgerald said. "Your in-

tention is not what they (reporters) hear. Your sincerity is not what they get."

He said the committee is somewhat under a microscope. "You're on center stage. You're dealing with a topic that was inflammatory since it was presented to council."

David Call, Farmington Hills assistant city manager, said, "I have no problem with anyone in the community voicing their opinion."

But he added that sometimes the opinions are not based on factual information. "Then it gives a perceived black eye."

Call admitted he didn't like the Observer's Nov. 21 editorial complaining about closed council meetings regarding the Peltz-MDOT wetlands replacement. No one called him or City Manager William Costick about the issue. "Things were blown out of proportion."

Schools assess asbestos

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Thirty schools in the Farmington District will begin their first asbestos reinspection within a month, with completion expected by June.

The reinspection is required of all state schools by the EPA and MIO-SHA, according to Ron Aten, the district architect.

The school board awarded the as-

bestos reinspection bid to Phillip Schaeffer MPH, West Bloomfield, at a cost of \$14,550 at its Nov. 19 regular meeting.

This will be the district's first asbestos reinspection. Three years ago, Farmington schools were instructed to identify and classify all areas of asbestos location as a result of the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, Aten said.

Some asbestos was removed and

some was encapsulated, said Don Cowan, director of building/student services.

"We're assessing everything again," Aten said.

Six-month periodic checks will follow.

School officials will be looking for friable asbestos, that is, asbestos that can be easily crumbled and become airborne.

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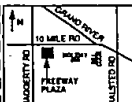
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