

**Public Hearing March 31, 2011  
Lachat House**

To accept public comment about whether the house on the Lachat property should be renovated or demolished.

Ms. Weinstein opened the public hearing at 7:00pm.

**Paul Deysenroth-** He personally feels that knowing the Town has no present use for the house, and the amount of money necessary to do the repairs to the house is in the millions of dollars to make it habitable. From the Historical Society point of view, they would like to preserve as many old houses in Town as practical. If the Board decides to demolish the house they would like the ability to go in and photograph everything that is inside and outside the house because the house has plaque by the Historical Society. The major portion of the house is unique because of the year it was built. The house has been added on many times so the integrity of the original design is not there today.

**Herb Cotter-** Weston is not known as a Town with much affordable housing. Using the Habitat for Humanity model, he wonders if there is some way they could create a community based Weston version of Habitat. He would like the primary consideration to be no term financial impact on the Town and no long term, on going financial impact on the Town.

**Christine Lomuscio-** She loves the house and it is a pretty house compared to a lot of houses. She feels it is a part of Weston and would really feel sad if the house was taken down. She felt that we have not kept the house up so she sent an email out because she wanted to know why we couldn't do an Americares type of project here. One person offered 100 man hours.

**Joe Spetley-** He has walked around the outside of house recently and read that we have a contingency fund that they can use to fix the house up. To him that would be like trying to carry water in a strainer. It is never going to end. The town would be better off razing it at a later date when the Town feels they can put a structure up that can be used by the public.

**Mark Harper-** He said Leon Lachat's goal was to preserve the land. Mr. Lachat knew that the house was in rough shape and he did not hold anyone responsible. He gave them the option of fixing it or not fixing. Mr. Harper said that there is a lot of good stone in the foundation and he would like to see the stone preserved. There may be some beams and floors that can also be saved. Mr. Lachat knew that there was a distinct possibility that the house was going to come down some day.

**Nicolas Bell-** Mr. Bell said that he felt it was important that the Town and the Conservancy maintain a relationship. He gave a brief history on the Godfrey's who originally lived in the house and said that there is history here that should be preserved. What is unique about the house is that it has a chestnut frame which is not available

today. The house should be cataloged, blue printed, put into a trailer and saved to be reassembled elsewhere possibly in Town. He feels it would cost approximately \$25,000 to do this. He would like to find a location even if it had to be one of his own parcels to reconstruct this house.

**Margaret Wirtenberg-** It is a very important site and she hopes whatever we decide to do with it we make sure to preserve it and keep it an open space.

**Amy Kalafa-** She feels that whatever happens to the house is connected to the plan for the entire Lachat property. She is an advocate of a Town Farm. She believes the house is one of only ten houses that were built in the 1700's in Weston. There are grants available on the State level and other foundation grants that would be helpful in preserving a home like this. If it is connected to a larger plan for the property, people in Town would be interested in volunteering to help. She would like to preserve the bones of the house and reconstruct it using the materials that are salvageable.

**Jerry Tarulli-** He feels the property and the building is a tremendous work of art. He does not feel that taxing individuals without their expressed desire to retain the house, is appropriate. In some fashion there should be some small tasteful memorial incorporating some of the stones. He would like to see some of Mr. Lachat's desires and dreams incorporated in what we do with the property. He said if the property could be used to display on a temporary basis just 1 or 2 artistic works at a distance from the road amongst the fields, it would be a tremendous addition.

**At 7:30pm Ms. Weinstein closed the public hearing.**

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 04/14/11