**REQUEST FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MAY 4, 2020**

Hello Rob, Dave and Bonnie,

Mike and I have been working to find a home for the Historical Museum. As great as the room at the new town building is, we realize the Historical Society has many more items to display and need for storage. The Society has items throughout the town in homes, inside and outside of the Convex storage box, in Dave Scalley’s garage as well as his building in Whitefield. We are so thankful that Dave and others have stored the items but we realize a permanent solution is needed.

We have spoken with John Gardner and other members of the Historical regarding our request. All are in favor of submitting the proposal. As such, we are speaking for and representing the Historical Society.

During the time when Mike and I were trying to save the gym for the Historical museum, Jeremy Oleson had spoken to both of us about the possible availability of the existing fire station. Although he said the building could no longer function as a compliant fire station, it would be great for the museum. There is ample storage in the new part of the building and the bays would be used as the museum. We were focused on the gym, saving it for historical reason, and the size would have been more than enough room to display all the historical items. That did not work out however thanks to the help of many, we were able to salvage a number of items with historical value.

So, after a several days of mourning, we turned right back to Jeremy and asked his thoughts again on the use of the fire station as a museum. He gave us the plans he had made up for the station in case the new buildings did not pass. We have spent a lot of time working on this and whether we thought this would work. With that being said we have decided to ask the town to allow the Historical to take over the fire station for the Museum.

Our thoughts:

* We could move everything from everyone’s homes, Dave’s garages and convex box inside and out and put them in the station. Things that are fragile as pictures and papers could go into the new section. There is great storage also in the upstairs of the new building.
* We could take the first two large bays and use them as the museum, displaying all the large items like the safe and old cabinet, both of which are already there. The other two bays could be used for storage (for future yard sales and large items that are too big for us to take now.) We can also use part of those bays to repair items or refinish, etc.
* That leaves the smallest bay which we thought would be great for the Rec committee storage. (Have not spoken to Erin yet.) To our knowledge they lost space that they had in the old building.
* We would paint the outside of the building and make it look very nice with the new paint and flowers. It would be an asset not an eyesore. We would be open only in the summer so no heat would be needed in the bays.
* The Historical committee is not only thinking of a museum. And this is where the 250th Committee would come in working with the Historical. We want to try and jump start the “new face” for Town of Carroll. We will never be as we once were. But this town has so much to offer. We have been thinking of plans for trails that show our history as in our old cemeteries, the old town of Zealand with some of the old machinery still in the river and tours of the locations of the old hotels. That is just some of the ideas. We really look at this as an ongoing project. A work in motion!

The Historical Society has been in existence for twenty to thirty years. People have been gathering things here and there, people sending things to the town and people telling us that they have things but will not give them until there is a home for the Historical. Although the society has been collecting things through out the years, there has been no move on a home. We are now at a point that we need to find that home. Having one in the center of the town would be ideal.

We are thinking we would need about one or two years to open the museum. We would work on the first two bays to get them ready for the museum to open. We would work on having a nice curb appeal for the building too. In the meantime, the room at the new building could still hold the Historical items that can fit in there.

We know there are a lot of questions on what the Historical would be responsible for or would it be considered a part of the town? And we know that is just one question. I think this deserves and requires a lot of discussion. And a lot of give and take.

Please consider this request. This could become a very vital part of the town. A fresh new start as shown by our new town buildings. This could help us show that this is not just a drive thru town and that we have a lot to offer.

Thank you for your time. If you feel you would like us to call into the meeting tonight let us know.

Again, thank you.

Rena Vecchio and Mike Gooden