

ITEM 3

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 13

COUNCIL MEETING Feb. 19/73

3. Re: Demolition of Barn
4940 Sperling Avenue

The Municipality for a number of years leased an old barn to the Burnaby Horsemen's Association for use in conjunction with its equestrian activities. The barn is located at 4940 Sperling Avenue, adjacent to Fire Hall No. 1.

The old barn has been vacant since December 31, 1972, when the Association moved the last of its equipment to a new facility on Avalon Avenue.

The Building, Fire and Public Health Departments, on the basis of a jointly carried out investigation, advise as follows:

"Since the building is no longer occupied by the Burnaby Horsemen's Association, steps should be taken to have the building demolished, resultant debris removed, and the property cleaned up.

This building is in a serious state of disrepair, and is considered to be a fire hazard. There is evidence of rodent infestation, and serious fly infestation during the warm months."

There is no substantiating justification for preservation of the building. The building in many ways is structurally sound, however, considerable expense would be required to renovate it to a standard of overall acceptance. Also, the prospect of damage by vandals is high, and this would result in a continuing expense that would have to be borne by the citizens of the Municipality.

The Parks and Recreation Administrator believes that the barn has no real and lasting architectural or aesthetical value that would justify its preservation, and concurs with the recommendation that the barn be demolished.

The Director of Heritage Village was requested to consider the feasibility of having the barn preserved and managed by the Century Park Museum Association. The Director was advised that the Century Park Museum Association Board of Directors "Decided that there is no requirement at Heritage Village for the subject barn ... Accordingly, Heritage Village declines the offer of this barn, with thanks."

Although plans for the site have not been developed, the Parks and Recreation Department has indicated an interest in having the barn demolished and the property appropriately landscaped to harmonize with the existing environment and future development of walking trails in the area.

The Land Agent has requested that he be given authority to have the barn at 4940 Sperling Avenue demolished.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Land Agent be authorized to arrange for the demolition of the subject barn.