

Centennial board president: Sale of Hart School done 'very openly'

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 24, 2014 1:00 am

The idea that the Centennial School District used some type of “clandestine plot” to sell the Hart School does not sit well with Jane Schrader Lynch.

The president of the district’s school board spoke at Warminster’s Board of Supervisors meeting last week, and listed the meetings of both the school board and ad hoc committee created to find the best solution for the dilapidated building, contaminated with mold, asbestos and a litany of problems that accompany 60-year-old structures hindered by age and vandalism.

She spoke about public notices, newspaper stories and televised board meetings where the public had opportunities to learn about the process used to deal with the 15-acre property on Little Lane.

“I keep hearing that no one knew anything, that there was some kind of clandestine plot to sell the Hart School,” Schrader Lynch said. “This wasn’t something done behind closed doors. It was done very openly and very publicly.”

Afterward, she said she spoke in front of supervisors “to clear the matter up once and for all. If anyone had any questions about the process, I wanted people to ask me right there about it.”

Vera Moody, a Warminster resident who frequently attends supervisors meetings, spoke up in Schrader Lynch’s defense.

“I understand how she feels because there’s a lot of apathy out there,” Moody said. “It’s up to the community to be out there at meetings to know what’s going on. If you’re not out there, you can’t complain about what’s going on.”

Dan McPhillips, chairman of the supervisors, thanked Schrader Lynch for “clearly explaining the effort the school board went through in trying to sell this property. ... It has not been rushed through. I appreciate Jane clarifying that for the public.”

In February, the district sold the property, which had at one time been home to the Warminster Recreation and Education Center, to Envision Land Use LLC for \$438,000.

Envision is seeking a zoning change — from governmental to residential — to build 30 homes on the land.



The Hart School in Warminster, was recently sold to a developer. (Catherine Meredith/Staff Photographer)

In other township news, Colin Strunk was honored by the board for rising to the rank of Eagle Scout. For his community service project, Strunk built an animal compound for the Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in New Britain Township.

A proclamation read by McPhillips commended Strunk for “demonstrating qualities of leadership and teamwork.”

Supervisors are accepting resumes and letters of interest to fill a vacancy on the Library Board. The information should be sent to Steven M. Wiesner, interim township manager, 401 Gibson Ave., Warminster. It can also be emailed to Townshipmanager@warminsterpa.org.

The vacancy was created by the resignation of Louis Abramson, who is leaving the area. McPhillips thanked him for his service.

McPhillips also congratulated Archbishop Wood’s football team for winning its seventh consecutive championship in the Philadelphia Catholic League’s Class AAA division. Wood defeated Archbishop Ryan, 35-14.