

Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 5, No. 1: Kasson Alliance for Restoration Annual Meeting and Other News

Kasson Alliance for Restoration

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<http://www.KassonAlliance.org> (Now accepting donations online at the above website; You can also join or pay your dues online)

March 14, 2011, Kasson, MN

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters of KARE,

1. KARE's First Meeting of 2011: The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) will conduct its first meeting of 2011 on Saturday March 19, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Historic Kasson State Theater on Main Street. In addition to the Treasurers report the meeting will include:

a. Elections

i. The KARE board recently voted to add two more board members. In addition, the existing Board Member at Large position is up for election (3 total positions). The current nominations are: Maggie Lien, Don Ness and Fred Spading. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted. The board members will assume their positions immediately following the election. KARE's current board members are: Melanie Leth, Karen McClamroch, Diane O'Brien Berge and Lorraine Spading.

ii. The KARE board recently voted to add two more board advisors. They are Rodney Peterson, who is an attorney who specializes in Real Estate Law, and Jeannine Hensley who manages the HuHot Restaurant in Rochester. Thank you to Rodney for helping KARE with many legal matters the past few years.

b. Kasson Public Library Building Committee (KPLBC) Update: A member of this committee will present information on this committee's investigation into reusing the Historic 1918 Kasson Public School as a library. In February 2011 the KPLBC announced that they had met with Deb Parrott of the engineering and architecture firm Widseth, Smith, Nolting and Associates. Ms. Parrott, who has experience with library design, was asked to prepare three library design proposals for the historic school site as follows:

- 1) Total rehabilitation of the 1918 school building,
- 2) A partial or modified rehabilitation of the school building and
- 3) A completely new structure on the general footprint of the existing building.

c. Minnesota Main Street Program Presentation: Emily Northey will present information on the MN Main Street Program. Emily is the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's Main Street Program Coordinator. A number of businesses on Main Street are interested in banding together to participate in this exciting program to further enhance Kasson's historic main street. Quoting Emily: "Historic downtowns are the heart of their communities. These downtowns are central to a town's identity for residents, visitors, and prospective businesses. For the future health of a community, it is critical that they have a vibrant downtown true to their unique history."

d. Entertainment: Levi Livingood will perform: You may recall that Levi dressed as Benjamin Franklin last summer during KARE's hanging the windows event at the Historic School. Come and see what he has planned at this meeting. You will not want to miss this!

e. May is National Preservation Month: KARE sponsors a Historic Preservation event every year in May. Come and hear what the plans are for this year. Your ideas are welcome.

d. Announcement of KARE's Activities for 2011: KARE has many exciting activities planned for 2011 to include an event (or more) at the Historic School and many other activities. We welcome your ideas.

e. KARE's Official Logo: We will discuss this exciting development with the membership.

2. KARE on Facebook: KARE's Facebook page will be officially announced soon! This will provide the citizens of Kasson many opportunities to advocate for Kasson's Historic Resources and Buildings.

3. Dodge County Expo, March 26: KARE will host its third annual booth the Dodge County Expo on Saturday, March 26 and we welcome you to visit. The Expo is held at Triton High School in Dodge Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many of you have volunteered to work at the booth. We can always use more help. Come and join the fun!

4. Other KARE Information Booths: KARE will host information booths at the Dodge County Fair, Kasson Festival in the Park and at Marigold Days. More information to follow.

Thank you for the many donations we have received on-line! We appreciate your support.

Thank you to the many businesses who expressed their support for Kasson's history and historic preservation this past year.

Thank You to everyone for your ongoing support.

The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007. KARE's membership includes both citizens and supporting businesses.

KARE's mission is to preserve Kasson's history, historic buildings and historic structures to serve as landmarks to Kasson's heritage while being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.

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KARE Website: <http://www.KassonAlliance.org>

John Lauber's School Reuse Study Team's Website:

<http://kassonschoolreuse.net>

KARE is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places in Kasson that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from the cities' history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, **KARE** helps revitalize the community, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. The **Kasson Alliance** provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to citizens and organizations committed to saving historic places, connecting them to Kasson's history and collectively shaping the future of the communities' stories.

Note: The media is welcome to use all or portions of this announcement and any attachments.

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