

Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 3, No. 2, KARE Activities Update

KARE Supporters,

In our last Press Release/Email to you on March 20, 2009 we discussed the Reuse Study for the 1918 School and a related meeting in late March with John Lauber and Company (the Reuse Study consultant). The following is an update of activities.

1. On March 28, many KARE volunteers worked the KARE booth at the Dodge County Expo in Dodge Center, MN. Many citizens visited the booth to lend their support to KARE's Historic Preservation mission.
2. On April 20, three members of the John Lauber consulting team toured the historic school and examined it from the roof to the foundation as part of the overall evaluation of the building for potential adaptive reuse. The team included project leader and preservation planner John Lauber from Minneapolis, along with architects Steve Edwins and Steve Wilmot from SMSQ Architects in Northfield. A press release from John Lauber on that subject is attached below.
3. Citizens can help determine the future of the historic 1918 school building by participating in the reuse study by logging onto a new project website. Internet users who set their browsers to www.kassonschoolreuse.net will find a series of pages describing the reuse study process, and introducing the team that will lead it. Visitors to the website can follow the progress of the study as it unfolds and submit their own ideas and opinions about the building's future by completing an online survey. The survey link can be found on the Home Page next to the picture of the school. Please take a minute to visit the site and fill out the survey form. Survey forms are also available in the library and at City Hall or by request. A press release from John Lauber on that subject is attached below.
4. A Kasson School Reuse Action Committee (SCHRAC) meeting will be held on Wednesday May 6, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Kasson KMTel Building at 18 2nd Ave NW. The public is invited to attend and participate. The purpose of the meeting is for the committee, and interested citizens, to begin to prepare for a series of meetings that John Lauber's team will host on June 10, 11 and 12 in Kasson. Details on the June meetings can be found on the reuse study website: www.kassonschoolreuse.net (you can also link to this from KARE's website under links).

5. Local residents are invited to participate in a public workshop that will be held on the evening of Thursday, June 11 (Mark your calendars, details to follow).

6. KARE will sponsor a 2nd annual Kasson History Day in 2009. Watch for details on that event in a future ENews letter.

Thank you for your continuing support. Our membership continues to grow.

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.

Mission: KARE is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007. KARE's mission is to preserve historic buildings, structures and properties to serve as landmarks of Kasson's' heritage, along with being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.

Kasson Alliance for Restoration

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

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10 April 2009

For immediate release:

Kasson School Reuse Team

To Inspect Building on April 20.

Three members of the consulting team retained to complete a reuse study of the historic Kasson Public School will be in town on Monday, April 20, to evaluate the building for potential adaptive reuse. The team will include project leader and preservation planner John Lauber from Minneapolis, along with architects Steve Edwins and Steve Wilmot from SMSQ Architects in Northfield.

The trio will inspect the building inside and out, and from top to bottom, documenting its physical condition and structural integrity, and assessing the state of its mechanical, electrical, and life safety systems. The group will also evaluate the building's accessibility, the nature and flexibility of interior spaces, and the character and potential of the site. The results of the inspection will be documented with field notes, photographs, and drawings. A summary of the team's findings will be posted on the project website (www.kassonschoolreuse.net) within a few days of the visit.

The building inspection is an important first step in the reuse study, which will continue on June 10-12 when the entire five-member team returns to Kasson for an intensive information gathering session which will include tours of the building and community, a series of targeted interviews, and a public workshop. The workshop is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, June 11 (details to follow), and all interested individuals are strongly urged to attend. Citizens can also provide input by logging onto the project website, or by completing surveys available at the Public Library and City Hall.

Jointly sponsored by the City of Kasson and the Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE), the reuse study is intended to help the community identify a viable use for the 1918 school building and site. Work on the project will continue throughout the summer, with a final report due in the fall.

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10 April, 2009

For Immediate Release:

New Web Site

Lets Kasson Residents

Participate in School Reuse Study.

Kasson residents interested in helping to determine the future of the community's historic 1918 school building can participate in a recently initiated reuse study by logging on to a new project website. Internet users who set their browsers to www.kassonschoolreuse.net will find a series of pages describing the reuse study process, and introducing the team that will lead it. They will be able follow the progress of the study as it unfolds and will also have an opportunity to submit their own ideas and opinions about the building's future by completing an online survey.

The reuse study is intended to help the community identify a viable reuse for the building and site. The study will include a thorough assessment of the building's condition and adaptability, a series of targeted citizen interviews, an evaluation of local political, social, and cultural issues, a public visioning workshop, and a careful assessment of economic factors.

Sponsored by the City of Kasson and the Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE), the reuse study will be conducted by a team of architects, planners, and development specialists led by John Lauber and Company, a historic preservation consulting firm from Minneapolis. The team will be in Kasson on April 20 to complete a building condition survey, and will return on Wednesday, June 10 to begin three days of interviews, tours, and work sessions. Local residents are invited to participate in a public workshop that will be held on the evening of Thursday, June 11 (details to follow). Meanwhile they can also

provide input via the website, or by completing surveys that will be available at the Kasson Public Library and at City Hall. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2009.

For more information contact:

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