

Officials look at possible HVAC issue at new school

By GREG ANDERSON

READING - At last night's School Committee meeting Scott Dunlap of Architecture Involvement, the architectural firm managing the town's school building projects, presented updates of the high school project and of Barrows and Wood End Elementary schools.

Dunlap provided general information and updates, saying most aspects of the projects are on time, but also led discussion regarding some points of the projects that aren't going exactly as planned.

While presenting updates and final project completion dates for Wood End Elementary, Dunlap said Architecture Involvement is looking into a possible problem with the HVAC equipment on the school's second floor. He said that, because the school is not air conditioned, it is likely that the

school's interior will not be cooler than the outside air temperature, but there are still concerns that airflow on the second floor is not optimal.

According to School Committee Chairman Carl McFadden, the air on the second floor on a warm afternoon last week was "stagnant." McFadden told the representatives from Architecture Involvement that the problem really couldn't wait to be handled and that he wanted it solved as soon as possible.

Dunlap said they would rather collect empirical data on the second floor, monitoring airflow and temperature and whether certain classrooms were warmer than others based on their respective angles to the sun. While McFadden still insisted he wanted the problem addressed immediately, another representa-

HVAC on Page A2



MOM MAUREEN COUNIHAN helps her son Austin (5) of Reading play trumpet at Creative Arts Open House this past Saturday. Below, Christopher



Jones campaign opens Reading office

READING - The Jones Committee is pleased to announce the opening of their campaign

office. Jones has received a steady stream of well wishers from Reading and the other towns in his district.

Reading

A2

•HVAC

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 tive from Architecture Invo-
 lution noted that solving the
 problem without empirical
 data would be difficult
 because what people define
 as "comfortable" is subjective.

The AI reps finished the
 discussion, saying that
 while they do not know what
 the problems, if any, are
 right now, they will address
 the situation in the next
 one-to-two days.

Other aspects of the
 Wood End project are
 reportedly complete. Dun-
 lap said the academic areas,
 library, cafeteria and
 kitchen are all complete.

He also noted that the
 school department has
 received the Certificate of
 Occupancy, a rarity, consid-

ering many buildings
 according to Dunlap are
 occupied before the certifi-
 cates are received.

The School Committee
 also received an in-depth
 update of the high school
 project, and they were told
 that several factors of the
 project's preliminary work
 have been completed. Dun-
 lap said that boiler conver-
 sion is complete, a construc-
 tion access road has been
 finished and secure perime-
 ter fencing has been con-
 structed.

It was also noted however
 that one aspect of the high
 school project is not run-
 ning on time. Presently the
 school's practice field is
 scheduled to be complete by
 December, but because a
 water line replacement pro-

ject affecting the area has
 been delayed twice in as
 many months, the projects
 may conflict with one anoth-
 er and the field may have to
 wait until spring.

Dunlap also said that the
 weather will affect the field
 project because advance-
 ment will be impossible if
 the ground hardens early in
 the winter from frost. He
 also noted that if the project
 is delayed much longer,
 thousands of dollars from
 the project's contingency
 fund will need to be used
 because the fill excavated in
 the area will need to be
 trucked away.

The fill can reportedly be
 stored on-site right now but
 space there is becoming
 increasingly rare with the
 project's advancement.

Committee member Pete
 Dahl said the water main
 project could not be delayed
 any longer and that it
 should not be easy to justify
 using money from the pro-
 ject's contingency fund.
 Dahl said an expense
 shouldn't be considered trivial
 when it's "only a few
 thousand," because people
 in town don't want higher
 taxes and they don't want to
 pay more than they have to.

When pressed by the
 committee, Dunlap said that
 once work has begun on the
 practice field, the work
 should only take about 8-to-
 10 days and could possibly



THE LANDMARK Kernwood
 Salem Street) comes down to
 facility on the site.

be done by October.

Dunlap also said that in
 an effort to keep the project
 on schedule, the town's
 Police Chief Robert Silva
 granted TLT Construction,
 the project's contracting
 firm, permission to conduct
 work on the next five Sun-
 days, something ordinarily
 not allowed by town by-laws.
 The majority of the work
 that will be completed in
 the next few weeks is crane
 work, and should not be

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With this

ject affecting the area has been delayed twice in as many months, the projects may conflict with one another and the field may have to wait until spring.

Dunlap also said that the weather will affect the field project because advancement will be impossible if the ground hardens early in the winter from frost. He also noted that if the project is delayed much longer, thousands of dollars from the project's contingency fund will need to be used because the fill excavated in the area will need to be trucked away.

The fill can reportedly be stored on-site right now but space there is becoming increasingly rare with the project's advancement.

Committee member Pete Dahl said the water main project could not be delayed any longer and that it should not be easy to justify using money from the project's contingency fund. Dahl said an expense shouldn't be considered trivial when it's "only a few thousand," because people in town don't want higher taxes and they don't want to pay more than they have to.

When pressed by the committee, Dunlap said that once work has begun on the practice field, the work should only take about 8-to-10 days and could possibly



THE LANDMARK Kernwood Restaurant in Lynnfield (near the Wakefield line on Salem Street) comes down to make way for the construction of an assisted living facility on the site. (Don Young photo)

be done by October.

Dunlap also said that in an effort to keep the project on schedule, the town's Police Chief Robert Silva granted TLT Construction, the project's contracting firm, permission to conduct work on the next five Sundays, something ordinarily not allowed by town by-laws. The majority of the work that will be completed in the next few weeks is crane work, and should not be

noisy. It will likely not annoy abutters to the project.

Change orders totaling about \$36,000 were also discussed briefly at Monday night's meeting. The orders deduct money from the project's contingency fund to cover "unforeseen items during construction," such as clearing a temporary parking lot and the removal of old swimming pool parts.

Dunlap also said more change order items that total about \$28,000 are pending.

Dunlap also presented the committee with a few details regarding the Barrows Elementary project, noting that the new roof over the existing structure is about 75 percent complete and that the project is currently on-time for its July, 2005 completion date.

•Golf

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Country Club, use of a golf cart and complimentary gifts.

There are different ways to contribute to the YMCA Golf Tournament.

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- BIRTH -

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