

TOWN OF SEEKONK
Planning Board

MEMORANDUM

To: The Planning Board

From: John P. Hansen Jr., AICP, Town Planner

Date: June 21, 2011

Re: Housing Production Plan Strategies ó Adaptive Reuse

One of the strategies outlined in the Housing Production Plan (HPP) is to look at existing town facilities that are no longer in use. It is recommended that the town study the potential for reusing these unused structures for affordable units. Reusing these properties as housing will enable the community to accommodate growth in established locations instead of as green field development. Furthermore, it will preserve or restore the architectural fabric of the community.

Once properties are identified, the town can solicit private developers to undertake the conversion of municipally-owned facilities into residential affordable housing units. One such potential structure reuse is the former School Administration Building on School St. A way we can encourage this to happen is to begin the process of this conversion by performing an assessment of the possibility of re-using this building. In order to fund such as an assessment, CPA funds could be used. Since this project involves affordable housing and the potential for reusing the building, which was built in 1912, both housing and historic CPA funds could be obtained.

Therefore, I would recommend the Board support filing an application with the CPC for the hiring of a consultant. In order for this application to have a definitive figure, I would also recommend the Board support issuing an RFP for this assessment.