

Second thoughts about saving old barn

By BOB SMITH

The Deer Park barn, a landmark in the Aptos area may be torn down.

Clayton Ward, president of the Rio del Mar Improvement Assn. told association directors Monday that the Carl Swenson Co. is working on plans to renovate the decaying and heavily vandalized barn.

But a majority of the directors agreed it would be all right with them to demolish the barn and construct a new building on the hilltop that that could be used by the community — including the Rio del Mar Improvement Assoc.

Noting that a county use permit requires the old barn to be refurbished and remain on the property, Ward said:

"Swenson is getting to the point that they want to know what to do with the old barn. They are now putting together a sketch of how to retain the barn in a manner acceptable to the planning department and the board of supervisors."

Ward said he'll call a special meeting of the directors to review the drawings when they are available. "We'll decide if it is something we can support."

The idea to replace the barn completely came from Mrs. Dolores Miller.

"It seems doubtful that anything could be done with the present structure. Would it be more practical," she asked, "to rebuild it as a facsimile of what was there?"

"I don't know how much sentiment there is in Rio del Mar for the old barn. Now, it looks like a monument to neglect, desecration and vandalism."

A straw vote of the directors and audience showed no sentiment from the 20-plus people for retaining the barn in its present form.

"We may be on the threshold of an interesting development," Ward mused.

Whatever Swenson does with the building, said retiring director Ed Hannah, it will have to be brought up to building code standards for public use. Several people in the audience believed it would be financially prohibitive to do so.

Mrs. Miller tossed out another idea. "Perhaps a miniature replica could be built using the barn's wood. I wonder if this project would appeal to Aptos High School students — research the barn's history, and then build it. It would be an interesting experience." She said the miniature could be located somewhere in the Deer Park shopping center area, and perhaps the improvement association could bankroll the high school students if they

needed extra money for the project.

Ward announced the resignation of director Carole Nudd from the board and also told the board that Hannah will not be seeking a full two-year term at the September directors election.

Four seats will be vacant. Besides those held by Hannah and Mrs. Nudd, Ed Vautier and Ed Folgersson will be seeking new terms.

Ward appointed a nominating committee consisting of vice president Mel Fields, treasurer Bert Kendall, and directors Alan Collins and Mrs. Miller to look for candidates.

Recommendations must be made by Sept. 1 and ballots mailed at least 10 days before the Sept. 30 deadline for returning them, Ward said.

Vandalism and a proliferation of signs on telephone poles and placards on public property were also concerns at the meeting.

A \$500 reward posted by Charles MacCrone, for informa-

tion leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who blew up his mail box last week at 120 Thunderbird Lane is still in effect.

Other Rio del Mar residents complained to the directors that they had been plagued by vandals and skateboarders and had been unable to get assistance from the sheriff's office. One couple indicated their problems had diminished when they hired a private security firm to make regular checks of their condominium building.

The MacCrones came to the directors meeting looking for action in getting rid of the numerous signs posted on telephone poles and other public property in the community.

MacCrone pointed out that it is a misdemeanor to post a handbill on a telephone pole without per-

mission of the utility company.

Reading from the state penal code, he called the posting "a clear violation of the law."

"I wonder if the association could publicize something in the newspapers, advising people of this," MacCrone asked.

"The people who do it," responded Mrs. Miller, "either don't or can't read."

"The sheriff won't do anything. The highway patrol won't touch them (signs). The only remedy is to tear them down," Mrs. Miller added.

"If I want to advertise a sale or clean out my garage," Mrs. MacCrone said, "I'll advertise in the newspapers."

The pleas got a promise from Ward. "I'll personally promise to tear down any garage sale signs I find."