

Town Hall meeting in Silverhill to discuss fate of Little Bohemian Hall

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By John Underwood

SILVERHILL, Ala. — A town meeting has been set for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 12 at Silverhill Town Hall to discuss the fate of the Little Bohemian Hall.

The historic structure which now sits at Silverhill's Ball Park, was shifted off its foundation and sustained extensive damage during a tornado that struck in Silverhill March 9.

While there was little discussion at Monday's Council meeting, Mayor Tim Wilson discussed the options available to the town at its previous meeting April 18.

While both an independent insurance adjuster and an inspector employed by town have said the structure can be declared a total loss, Wilson said, the town still has the option of restoring the structure.

"The problem is if we restore it, we stand to lose a lot of insurance money," Wilson said.

Another option that has been discussed is the possibility of moving the structure and restoring it for use as a museum.

At the Council's April 4 meeting former Mayor Alan Green addressed council members, saying he had been in contact with a representative from the Czech Republic Foundation, based out of New Orleans.

An offer has been made to pay for restoring the structure and Green was supposed to meet with Wilson and the Czech representative, but the meeting has yet to take place, Wilson said Monday.

If that possibility is realized, property is available on the grounds of the library and the structure would be open to the public during library hours, Wilson said.

Moving is not a new concept for the structure, which has moved at least twice from its original location on Bohemian Hall Road south of town.

The structure was first moved onto the grounds of Silverhill School, where it was used as an auditorium and gymnasium. When a new auditorium was built at the school, Little Hall was moved to its current location at the ballpark.

The Council voted unanimously to set the date for the meeting with Council members Steve Brooks and Wayne Gruenloh absent from Monday's meeting.