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**ACTON MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT**

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

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**To:** Steve Ledoux, Town Manager *Date:* 8/6/13  
**From:** Dean A. Charter, Municipal Properties Director *(D.A.C.)*  
**Subject:** Surplus Property; Faulkner Room Piano

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I would like to suggest that the Board of Selectmen declare the piano that resides in the Faulkner Room as surplus property, and approve it for disposition by sale, donation, or disposal.

The piano in question was manufactured by Starck, and was donated over 15 years ago by Peter and Katherine Vallaincourt (prior owners of the "Asa Parlin House"). This was donated by them to the Town of Acton without conditions; it was surplus to their needs, and needed to be removed from the house prior to the Town acquiring the property. We have found that the cabinetry appears to be in good condition, but the instrument cannot be tuned properly, and will not stay in payable condition. The piano serves no function, and has only been played a few times. The Town, using CPA funds several years ago, reconditioned the Fitzgerald Piano (which had historic value) and that instrument now resides in the Memorial Library, where it is used for recitals from time to time. The Fitzgerald Piano serves the role of "Town Piano" quite nicely, so there is no need to keep the Starck Piano in the Faulkner Room.

To put the costs in context, the restoration of the Fitzgerald Piano cost \$17,500 in CPA Historic preservation funds in 2009. I would speculate that restoring the Starck piano would cost about as much, if were even possible. The cost of restoration exceeds the cost of a similar used piano in good condition, and it was only done with the Fitzgerald Piano because it was a historic artifact. If the Starck piano were offered for surplus sale, I would expect a minimal, if any, offer.