

**Joint HAMILTON & Wenham
Boards of Selectmen & H-W Joint Recreation Board
OCTOBER 27, 2014**

The Boards of Selectmen from Hamilton and Wenham met with the H-W Joint Recreation Board and Recreation Director Sean Timmons at HW Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2014 with Scott Maddern, Marc Johnson, Jeff Hubbard, Jennifer Scuteri present.

Call to order

Scott Maddern called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion Regarding Proposed Pool Project

John Cusolito, H-W Joint Recreation Board member, summarized how the pool working group (Cusolito, Scott Maddern, David Neill, Jack Wilhelm, Brad Tilley, and Sean Timmons) was created to involve Hamilton and Wenham selectmen in the pool project process. He noted that 62 families in Wenham had expressed support for constructing an affordable pool.

A key element for moving forward with the pool project is to reduce the size and scope compared to previous proposal. BHA, firm that specializes in pool construction and design, is working with group to develop conceptual drawings and cost estimates for new project proposal. A joint recreation agreement is key for both municipalities since this will help with decisions about financing.

Fairhaven Field is being considered as an alternate site for the pool since it would be next to the Recreation Center, is central to two towns, is in residential area allowing many people to walk to the pool, could offer enhancements to Rec. Dept. programs, is larger and flatter space which could mitigate construction costs, and it would take foot traffic off of Bay Road. Disadvantages to this proposal include losing full size playing field used by HWRHS girls' field hockey and lacrosse as well as youth sports including soccer, pool would be in a residential area, lose visibility for drop-in users, not near new playground and tennis court at Patton Park, there is a parking space issue relative to library association requirements and fewer spaces are available than at the park.

A conceptual plan and estimated cost will be developed by January 1, 2015. Public meetings will be held in mid-January and with Selectmen, FinCom and CPC before ATM. Action is underway for corporate and private fundraising. At ATM voters will be

asked to vote on final design and construction costs (not to exceed \$2 million). Next steps until January 1 include decision from Joint Recreation Board on the pool site (Patton Park or Fairhaven Field). On November 6, that board will meet with BHA to review preliminary plans on design and cost. Recreation Director Sean Timmons is working on revenue/expense relative to operating costs. The financing methods will be reviewed at joint CPC meeting on December 18 when design concepts and costs are presented, and working group is targeting financing mechanism that will not impact tax rate in the two towns. Public and private fundraising are essential to move the pool project forward. Cusolito reiterated the importance of reaching a decision on where to site the pool.

Jeff Hubbard spoke to swim team use as well as location and condition of existing Patton Park pool compared to pools found at competing private club swim team locations. He also mentioned the charge of the original pool committee of which he was a member and options reviewed such as small pool with possible renovation to existing Patton Park pool, a medium size pool, and consideration of a much larger pool that would need users from surrounding area to support. He suggested analysis include investigation of cost of turf field in conjunction with pool project. Hubbard was not in favor of locating pool at Fairhaven Field and mentioned resources spent to date by Hamilton on a pool proposal at Patton Park. Sean Timmons acknowledged if Fairhaven site is considered discussion would address what would occur with defunct pool and site at Patton Park. Discussion ensued about consideration of noise and parking at the library if Fairhaven Field was used for a pool.

Jennifer Scuteri noted that a second site besides Patton Park was worth considering and suggested a pool in a residential area like Fairhaven Field could increase use of library by younger families. She also mentioned that the Community Preservation Coalition has issued a position on the use of CPA Funds for a turf field and the Hamilton CPC has discussed how this position restricts use of CPA Funds for a turf field and she emphasized community interest in an affordable pool.

Wenham selectmen spoke to the pool project with Catherine Harrison and Jack Wilhelm supportive of pool with acceptable compromises in cost and design. Wilhelm suggested that location of pool is a programmatic decision driven by the Recreation Department. Ken Whitaker was interested in joint recreation agreement for pool getting done first and thought issues should be addressed regarding Fairhaven Field consideration (i.e., parking). Marc Johnson noted importance of Wenham's involvement in looking at a new plan for pool for \$2 million where corporate and private funding could be used to deliver program and services for a smaller pool. He did not see a conflict with having

the pool located at Fairhaven Field. Maddern was interested in the communities moving aggressively forward with pool project proposal while being open minded about tradeoffs (i.e., location) and developing a proposal that includes a not to exceed cost amount with working group communicating with the two communities' CPCs. He noted that the communities will decide whether or not to move ahead with a pool project.

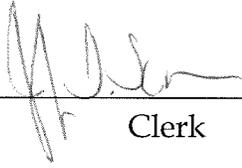
Discussion ensued with HW Library Trustees Margaret Whitaker and Annette Janes (who supports a pool), and Jan Dempsey, Library Director, as well as Rosemary Kennedy who expressed concern about consideration of Fairhaven Field due to issues related to septic, parking, traffic, loss of playing field space, library's summer programs overlapping with pool use, noise in a residential area (which BHA is assessing) and if users beyond Hamilton and Wenham residents would have access to the pool. Bill Dery opined that the communities could live without a pool since they have not had one for two years and that he has changed his position and now doesn't support any pool at all

Discussion addressed how effort is underway to identify corporate and private fundraising for a pool rather than taxpayer dollars for the project. Patrick Waddell suggested fundraising could include a discounted rate for pre-payment of annual resident fee to use pool (i.e., \$100/year for a number of years). Also mentioned was cost to fill in hole at Patton Park of \$60,000 if that site is no longer used for a municipal pool. Discussion ensued about whether or not CPA funds could also be used for other recreational facilities that residents are interested in (i.e., turf field, track at HWRHS). Hubbard said he had read the CPC bylaw as it pertains to turf fields and said that he disagreed with the Hamilton CPC that the use of CPA funds for a turf field was restricted. Chad Sumner noted that a two-community supported pool would enhance the towns. He mentioned community interest in a pool where Hamilton had previously voted on pool project at Town Meeting that missed being approved by two votes. He was in favor of both projects (pool and turf field) and was willing to contribute to bring the projects to fruition. Discussion reiterated need for cost analysis to be done to foster decision on pool project.

Maddern stressed importance of two towns cooperating to make a pool project affordable and possible. Discussion was on how the existing joint recreation agreement includes gym and how operating costs for pool could be added. Maddern entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Johnson so moved. Scuteri seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. Sen", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk