KW 11.24.14
APPROVED 12.16.14

Town of Wenham
Joint meeting of the Wenham & Hamilton Board of Selectmen
Monday, October 27, 2014
Library, 14 Union Street, S. Hamilton

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25 written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Committee members, a meeting of the Wenham Board of Selectmen, the Hamilton Board of Selectmen and the Joint Recreation Committee was held on Monday, OCTOBER 27, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Library Conference Room.

Call Meeting to Order
With quorum, present Chairman Wilhelm called the Wenham meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:30 PM.
Wenham Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; Catherine Harrison; Ken Whittaker
Also present for Wenham: Mark Andrews, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary
Hamilton Selectmen present: Scott Maddern, Chair; Jeffrey Hubbard, Jennifer Scuteri, Marc Johnson,
Hamilton Wenham (HW) Joint Recreation Director Sean Timmons
Working Group present: Steve Ozahowski, Chair (H); Brad Tilley (H); John Cusolito (W); Phil Tocci (H);
Selectman Wilhelm, Selectman Maddern Not present: Selectman David Neill

Public information:
Agenda
This meeting was recorded with permission by HWCAM

Veteran's Pool - Discussion

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Proposed Pool Project for the Veteran's Memorial Pool.
The pool, located at Patton Park, Hamilton, was closed this past year due to the age and deterioration of the pool.
On-going discussions to replace the pool recently included the Town of Wenham, and the formation of a Working Group to consider reasonable, affordable options going forward to replace the Veteran's Memorial Pool.

John Cusoloto referenced a PowerPoint presentation to give an update of the Working Group regarding the Veteran's Memorial Pool.
The following Working Group discussion points were highlighted in the presentation:

- Reduction of pool size / scope from the previous plan (s)
- Current plan to include a Cost Estimator and conceptual drawings of proposed project
- Contract with Bargmass Hendrie (pool construction specialist)
- A Joint Recreation Committee agreement to be drafted between Wenham & Hamilton (repairs, maintenance, costs, etc.)
- Alternate site location identified as Fairhaven Field (behind the Library)
  - Fairhaven Field Pros:
    - Same site as Recreation Center
    - Central to both towns
    - Residential area- allowing many residents to walk
    - Enhancement of summer program with proximity to gymnasium
    - Large flatter space (may mitigate construction costs)
    - Reduce pedestrian crossing on Bay Road
  - Fairhaven Field Cons:
    - Loss of full size playing field used for high school field hockey / lacrosse
    - Need to find/build other alternate sport field options e.g. Iron Rail

- Pool in residential area
- Loss of visibility (for drop-in users)
- Not near new playground or other Patton Park amenities
- Need to address parking (84 spaces at library (shared) vs. 133 at Patton Park)

Timeline as set by the Working Group:

- Conceptual Plan by January 1, 2015
- Public meeting by mid January 2015
- Meet with the Wenham & Hamilton Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, and Community Preservation Committees (CPC), before the 2015 Annual Town Meetings

Fundraising:
Corporate / private fundraising considerations

Town Meeting objective: To ask for approval of final design & construction costs, not to exceed $2 million

Next Steps:

- Deliverables by January 1, 2015
- Site chosen
- Conceptual design
- Revenue/ expense operating costs
- Financing Methods (to include a Joint CPC meeting December 2014; to be confirmed)
- Public/ private fundraising plans, not to affect the tax rates of either town
- Hold public meetings

The meeting was opened to the Selectmen for comments and questions.
Mr. Hubbard referenced previous public comments made about the "old pool" most notably that the location of the pool at Patton Park, being on Route 1A and in proximity of the tennis courts, playground, and sports fields, were positives for considering the future location of the pool. He added that is was not the location but the condition of the pool that was problematic. He went on to say that he is hearing support for the pool, but at the same time, there is talk about the consideration for a turf field at the High School. He reiterated the need to understand what the community can afford given the number of people that use it and the limited number of weeks it is used (10 weeks) suggesting this is a financially driven decision. He opined that a new pool would not be considered if the town did not have a pool over the past 50 years. Referring to the amount of money already spent by the town of Hamilton, he did not support building a new pool in a new location but to best use, the information obtained over this past year; if the towns go forward with a pool, he supported it be at Patton Park.

Mr. Whittaker questioned what would happen to the current pool site at Patton Park if another site were chosen and the old pool abandoned. Mr. Timmons responded that this has not seriously been considered but would be a part of the plan if another site were preferred.
Mr. Whittaker noted the Fairhaven Field is in the immediate area of the library and spoke his concern regarding the noise level, increased traffic in a residential area, and parking stressing these are very important components to be considered and input from the library Director and Trustees was imperative. Mr. Whittaker suggested the joint operating agreement be drafted early in the project, as part of the conception phase.

Ms. Scuteri opined that another site is important to consider. As a member of the Hamilton CPC, she said the use of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds should be reviewed in detail as one of the funding sources of the project. Ms. Harrison support a joint affordable joint pool saying $2 million seems reasonable and the Working Group is asking all the right questions and addressing the important details e.g. design, construction, revenue, expenses, maintenance etc. She also supported alternate sites to be considered.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the new aspects such as the Town of Wenham participating, the CPC is involved, a new target budget of $2 million has been set, and fundraising is being considered. He noted his concern that the pool meets the

needs of the community programming. He stated he is comfortable with the pool location at Patton Park, but also sees some benefits of relocating the pool to Fairhaven Field.
Mr. Wilhelm reviewed that the pool is important to Wenham residents and acceptable compromise can be made toward the design. He strongly supported that the project not exceed the cost of $2 million, and the Towns apply for CPA funds.

Mr. Maddern said he supports the project going forward and he remains open to other ideas and locations. He also supported the $2 million cost limit. He reviewed that the pool is a part of Hamilton's five-year capital plan and is second on the Board of Selectmen's list of goals.

The meeting was open to the public.

Margaret Whittaker, Library Trustee Chair, first questioned if the location of the septic leaching field in Fairhaven Field would affect the pool if it were to be relocated, noting a heavy rain has the potential to contaminate the area. Second, she stated last week was the first time the library Director was told that the Fairhaven Field was being considered as a location for the pool. She went on to say that parking is already tight and there are many concerns with not only parking and traffic, but also the additional affects on the interior of the library with such things as wet feet, bathing suits, and towels. Mr. Timmons noted the consultant is aware of the septic location.

Jen Scuteri questioned if the library has parking statistics for library usage in the summer with the increase of summer programming. This information is available.

William Derry, Chebacco Road, commented this is the same people doing the same "failed thing" including the recreation board being the design committee. He opined that since the pool in Hamilton has been closed the requirements in community have been serviced by other pools in the area. He went on to say that he has changed his mind and no longer thinks there should be a pool. He went on to say that although a new pool may enhance the community there are a lot of things to consider e.g. turf fields, school budget needs, where the tax rate is going, and replacing town necessities should be the priority, not recreational items at this time. He asked how much the present engineering group was costing the towns, where the $2 million to build the pool was coming from, how the cost/ maintenance of the pool would not affect the tax rate, and why the money the school gave back to the town was not used to reduce taxes.
Mr. Wilhelm responded that the current consulting cost is $14,300 and the Working Group is considering applying for CPA funds (in each town) first for $80,000 and second, for $2 million; this funding would not affect the tax rate if approved by the Community Preservation Committees. It was noted that residents have pledged $5,000.

Annett Janes, Library Trustee (H), stated that although she supports pool for the Town she vehemently oppose the pool be at the Fairhaven Field site, referencing when the library was built, the towns promised to be careful not to disturb the neighborhood. She commented traffic is already increased with the use of Cheeseman Field and adding to the library campus would be problematic. In a final comment, she stated it was outrageous that the library Director/ Trustees just heard about the consideration of the Fairhaven Field this week.

Patrick Waddell, Grapevine Road, suggested as a fundraising idea, to offer prepaid discounted usage rates for residents as a way to raise capital up front.

Rosemary Kennedy, Hamilton, questioned if the pool would be primarily a community pool, noting the scaled down size may not accommodate as many people. She also stated that the Fairhaven Field is in a quiet neighborhood and is not the appropriate location for the pool.

Mr. Hubbard reiterated that the pool project is going hand in hand with the quest for a turf field and said this needs to be carefully looked at, noting this is significant, recreational capital and the towns have "other needs". He said the big picture needs to be looked at and how CPA funds could be used.

Chad Sumner, Hamilton, noted that the Fairhaven Field is in Wenham, which is one reason it is being considered.

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In concluding remarks, Mr. Johnson said the focus is on the pool, as a potential joint program for both communities and this could not be done without Wenham's cooperation.

Jane Dempsey, Library Director, questioned why the Fairhaven Field would even be considered with the infrastructure already in place at Patton Park and analysis done of that particular site. She also observed that by relocating it to the library site, it would take away a much-needed playing field. She went on to cite parking and traffic as strong reasons that the library is included in the discussions regarding the location.

The next meeting of the Joint Recreation Committee is Thursday November 6, 2014.

The meeting unanimously adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
11.10.14