

HAMILTON - WENHAM



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Veterans Memorial Pool Question and Answer Sheet

Q: What was the process to get the pool project before voters in Wenham?

A: Last August a pool working group comprised of officials from both Hamilton and Wenham was formed and produced a set of directives for the Recreation Committee to achieve before the Hamilton and Wenham Annual Town Meetings. These directives included: review of alternative sites, a joint pool agreement between Hamilton and Wenham, a not to exceed construction budget of 2M, a pro forma budget, and multiple public presentations. All of these directives were met, and the Recreation Committee is now before the voters with their proposal. This proposal has also been in front of both Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, and Community Preservation Committees. The two towns have signed a 25 year partnership to support the pool if you approve it at Town Meeting.

Q: What are we being asked to vote on? How does the funding between the two towns work?

A: You are being asked to vote on two CPA funding requests, both of which are related to the pool. The first is for the sum of \$26,880 to complete the final design and prepare construction documents for the project. The second is for the sum of \$672,000 for the actual construction of the project. These amounts reflect a 33.6% share of the total cost of the project. Hamilton will be voting on whether or not to approve a 66.4% share of these same costs.

Q: Can't we cut the cost by renovating the existing pool?

A: If you look closely at the cost estimates you will find that the actual pool only accounts for 30% of the total project cost. The lack of the current infrastructure has the greatest impact on the overall project cost. In addition to the pool itself, the proposed project includes a bathhouse with private changing areas and private showers in contrast to the open changing areas and the open community showers that is currently present. It also provides two fully handicapped accessible bathrooms that will also be available for park users in the Spring and Fall. The proposed project also includes new pool decking, fence, sick bather area, and proper lifeguard office, all of which are code complaint. The project also includes items that lead to a more efficient way to operate the facility; a controlled access point for safe entry and exit, a small office for the Summer Park Program, a separate and secure place for staff to use the restroom, and a safe and properly ventilated storage area to store pool chemicals and supplies. All of the aforementioned features are either insufficient or completely non-existent in the current facility.

Q: Is there a fundraising campaign for the pool project?

A: Yes, we currently have monetary pledges from members of the community. If you are interested in making a pledge to the pool project you can contact the Recreation Department.

Q: Can CPA funds even be used on the pool?

A: Yes. In 2012 an amendment was made to the CPA to allow for the rehabilitation to outdoor recreational facilities. In fact, Belmont, East Longmeadow, Lincoln, and Newton have all used CPA on municipal swimming pool projects

Q: Will non-resident pool passes be needed in order to financially support the operation of the pool?

A: No. One of the items put forth to the Recreation Committee by the pool working group was to develop a pro-forma budget for revenue and expenses of the new pool. The Recreation Committee has determined that only resident passes will be sold, making this a TRUE community pool. Guest passes for visiting family and friends will also be available for purchase

Q: Will this project increase my property taxes?

A: No. The pool will be built with CPC funds from both towns and operating costs will be covered by Recreation fees. Although, the accumulation of CPC funds comes from property taxes, the CPA funds to be used for the project were already collected from you, over the years. These funds have also been boosted by State matches, on average, over the last five years; the State has matched 33% of Hamilton funds and 61% of Wenham funds.

Q: By voting yes for the pool, will a turf field at the HS not become a reality?

A: The Recreation Committee is very much committed to seeing a community pool and turf field come to fruition as they both were indentified in the Recreation Master Plan as high priorities. A turf field working group comprised of community members, school administrators and coaches, and Recreation Committee members has been formed. This group has been hard at work over the last few months to get this project off the ground. In the upcoming months the group plans to start a non-profit, hold education sessions and public presentations, and look to add new, interested community members who wish to help see this project become a reality.

Q: How much will it cost to operate the pool? Where is that money coming from?

A: Based upon preliminary numbers the Recreation Committee expects the pool to operate at an annual cost of between \$75,000 – \$85,000 a year. These costs will be paid for from the fees collected from swim passes, swim lessons, swim team, aquatic programming and a portion of the funds collected from the Summer Park Program.

Q: Do we really need to have the buildings as part of the pool plan?

A: Yes. Due to the state code for swimming pools, the buildings are a must in order for the pool to be deemed operational by the Health Inspector. The Recreation Committee has been hard at work making sure the buildings size and scope stay as minimal as possible while also providing the functionality that is needed. The Recreation Committee has also decided to pursue wood framed buildings that not only reduce the cost but also provide a more attractive appearance.

Q: Will there ever be time at the pool for adult or senior exclusive use?

A: The goal of the Recreation Committee is to make this a multi-generational facility. Various programs will be offered to ensure that community members of all ages and skill levels will be able to use the facility. If approved the Recreation Committee would love to hear more from the public about the types of programming they would like to see at the facility.