

**TOWN OF HAMILTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JULY 20, 2015**

The Board of Selectmen met at Hamilton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015 with Marc Johnson, Shawn Farrell, Bill Wilson present. Town Manager Michael Lombardo and COA Director Mary Beth Lawton also present.

**Call to order**

Marc Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Discussion ensued with Ed Howard who expressed interest in a sliding slope at Donovan field and if CPA funds could be used for a feasibility study on Town beach. Town officials raised issue of insurance liability for beach, relevance of study versus using funding to redo the beach, and noted that this could be a future agenda topic at BOS, Recreation Board and Conservation Commission meetings.

**Chairman/Selectmen reports**

Bill Wilson summarized that HW School Committee is seeking Wenham resident, construction continues at Winthrop School, FinCom has assigned officers/liasons and is discussing ideas for Town to raise revenues and find cost savings. Shawn Farrell mentioned Patton housing documents were approved by Planning Board, Made Pony Place subdivision has been continued, updated Board on tomorrow's Planning Board agenda items, reported on CPC meeting with officers elected and analysis of 2% versus 3% CPA surcharge and Town's ability to fund CPA project requests, also Conservation Commission actions including approval of ECGA boardwalk at Patton Homestead, stormwater disposal at Patton estate, and assignments to Open Space subcommittee. Johnson described how draft land acquisition policy has been sent to Town boards and committees and formal comments are forthcoming as well as how any property identified in Hamilton as prospect for open space or recreation would be synchronized with policy. Also, the Recreation Board is expecting that Patton Park pool documents would be ready in mid-August and plans are advancing in conjunction with Town boards. Discussion on turf field will include Selectmen from Hamilton and Wenham as well as the HW School Committee before fundraising starts. In addition, the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust met and discussed Longmeadow Way property that might be a candidate for affordable housing associated with developer interest.

Town Manager's report

Town Manager Michael Lombardo provided status on Essex Street bike path where DPW is working on contract with vendor, the estimated cost is \$800,000 and will likely be more so the project will be done in sections based on group discussion. The landfill capping project is in final grading stages with loam and seeding to occur in early fall. Discussion has occurred with gun club regarding post closure permit, there will be an environmental evaluation. RFP for solar array is nearly done and should go out in early August. Work is in process for a state green energy grant to fund an agent to structure the solar deal. The Weaver Pond parking lot will be done in August before fall activities begin. The purchase order went in for LED lighting and project could install soon. The Town received \$250,000 from the state for this project and this effort will save Hamilton as much as \$32,000 annually.

Department Reports – Director Mary Beth Lawton to present the Board with an update on the Council on Aging

The COA served 1,308 meals and delivered 7,000 meals on wheels this past fiscal year. Lucy Fredrickson has been doing outreach to seniors and the Senior Center has seen a 59% increase in new people to the COA. Also mentioned was 2,298 total transports with Beauport bringing seniors to 9 communities in Essex County up from 900 two years ago. (Average response time is 16 minutes for transport). The COA added programs, held health and wellness fair, public safety academy for seniors, and does charitable activities for children in foster care and food pantry. Also, 21% of Hamilton's population is 60 years old and older which is a growing population in Town. Currently 55 to 66 meals are delivered daily by volunteers to seniors. The COA has related programs for ice cream days, special food nights, and the traveling chef.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Appoint Nichole Gray to the **Board of Hamilton Wenham Library Trustees** to a term, expiring April 7, 2016. Madelyn Liberti resigned from the Board and Ms. Gray will fill the vacancy until the next Annual Town Election.
- One Day Liquor License – **Essex County Trails Association** for an event on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Myopia polo fields.
- **Approve Minutes:** June 15, 2015 – Regular Session; July 6, 2015 – Regular Session.

Johnson read items and entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Farrell so moved. Wilson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

## AGENDA

- Discuss renewal of leases of Winthrop and Cutler Schools between the Hamilton Regional School District and the Town of Hamilton and take any appropriate action thereto.

Lombardo summarized that remaining issues in leases were resolved related to insurance. He thanked Superintendent of Schools Michael Harvey and Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Administration Jeff Sands for the working relationship between Town officials and HWRSD and apologized if anything harsh had been said at last BOS meeting.

Discussion ensued about BOS prior vote to approve leases and that the leases are substantially in the same form so it was determined that there was no need to revote. Also mentioned was that the regional agreement is now silent about what happens after 40 years specified in original agreement and consideration should be given to updating regional agreement. Selectmen concurred that this fits into the vision for current participating communities.

- We Are In It Together – update and ongoing discussion

Discussion about common vision for Hamilton that reflects change in demographics, economic capabilities, master plan, student population, public safety support, services provided relative to revenue and taxes. At the next BOS meeting the Board will review comprehensive list for charts to be created that look at Hamilton and the Town relative to cohort communities. Data will include population, student population, tax bill/rate, average value of households, debt health of Town, per capita income for household, budget categories: Town, schools, public safety, benchmark on volunteering, and grant funding. This will lead to small discussions and public outreach.

- Open the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting set for Saturday, October 3, 2015

Wilson moved to open the warrant for the Special Town Meeting set for Saturday, October 3, 2015. Farrell seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

- Set date of next Selectmen meeting

The next Selectmen's meetings will be held on August 3 and 17, and the first and third Monday for the year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Consideration of topics for discussion at future Selectmen's meetings

Discussion addressed relationship with new Town Administrator in Wenham as well as combined activities between Hamilton and Wenham such as grounds maintenance.

Johnson entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Farrell so moved. Wilson seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk