

TOWN OF HAMILTON
HAMILTON and WENHAM Boards of Selectmen and HWRSD
AUGUST 23, 2011

The Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen met at Hamilton-Wenham Public Library at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 with Hamilton Board of Selectmen Jennifer Scuteri, David Carey, Marc Johnson, Jeff Stinson, Jeff Hubbard, Town Manager Michael Lombardo and Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena present. HWRSC members or school district administrators did not attend.

H-W Downtown Business Group

The Hamilton-Wenham Downtown Business Group will hold an event on September 24, 2011 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be music and food. Railroad Avenue will be semi closed off and vendors will have tables. Hamilton Selectmen Chair Jennifer Scuteri said a table for both Hamilton and Wenham selectmen might be considered.

Hamilton Selectman David Carey is working with utilities and local CATV employee Bill Melville to bring WIFI to downtown commercial district.

Carey has contacted MBTA regarding why there is a parking fee charged in Hamilton commuter rail lot while some surrounding communities (i.e., Beverly and Ipswich) do not pay MBTA parking fees.

Carey mentioned that Hamilton Planning Board Coordinator Marcie Ricker is holding another beautification contest this fall with downtown vendors. Rotary Club will provide a \$150 prize to be donated to a local charity and Hamilton Selectmen agreed to donate \$200 cash prize for contest.

Discussion about how Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary had helped Hamilton last year with Pumpkin fest event and that Selectmen from Hamilton and Wenham plan to hold an apple pie baking contest that might be judged by Council on Aging.

Hamilton Selectman Jeff Hubbard recommended residents consider shopping locally to support merchants. He noted in regard to food permits issued for

downtown events, Wenham requires one permit while Hamilton specifies four permits. He suggested that food permitting issues for Hamilton be revisited.

Facility Assessment Committee – Update

The Facility Assessment Committee is working with Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee Chair Alexa McCloughan.

Hamilton – Vote to lift Water Ban

Hamilton Town Manager Michael Lombardo explained that stream flow in Ipswich River as determined by Department of Environmental Protection was such for last seven days that mandatory water ban in Hamilton could be lifted.

Scuteri entertained a motion for Hamilton Board of Selectmen to lift mandatory water ban. Hamilton Selectman Marc Johnson so moved. Carey seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

School Committee Vacancy – Appointment Process Discussion

Don Gallant, Wenham representative to HWRSC, has resigned and will be replaced by appointment made by Wenham Board of Selectmen and remaining School Committee members.

Budget Process Committee – Discussion regarding amended charge

Discussion about amending charge of Budget Process Committee to give advisory board more power, importance of providing compatible budget information and that benchmarking should be done against other high-performing communities (i.e., MCAS scores, class sizes). Objective is to successfully provide best, most cost-effective public education for two towns.

Selectmen agreed that school budget should not be micromanaged by Town officials but that communication about budget amongst three entities (two towns and school department) should be improved and comprehensive enough to provide understanding required for Board to make a recommendation to voters.

Scuteri entertained a motion for Hamilton Board of Selectmen to approve BPC charge as presented (with a language change stating League of Women Voters

sponsors a voter information forum rather than budget information forum). Carey so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Discussion about on September 1, the community appointed member of BPC would be named. Opening will be posted for next two weeks and publicized in local press.

H-W CMC – Discussion regarding amended charge

Wenham Town Administrator explained that charge for H-W Capital Management Committee was amended to reflect current action and changes in responsibility for advisory committee.

Scuteri entertained a motion for Hamilton Board of Selectmen to accept H-W CMC revised charge. Carey so moved. Johnson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Fall Special Town Meeting – Review of possible dates and potential articles of joint interest

Discussion about Hamilton's Special Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at H-W Regional High School regarding whether or not Hamilton's and Wenham's Town Meetings should be held on same day. Dates selected for Town Meetings could possibly take into consideration sports event commitments for resident families. Wenham has two more Selectmen's meetings before it has to decide on a Special Town Meeting date.

Scuteri mentioned that Hamilton's bylaw would have to be revised in order to hold an Annual Town Meeting in April to allow for a better turnout of parents of school-aged children since team sports activities usually have not started at that time. Also, if Special Town Meetings were held in November that would provide enough time for more substantive warrant articles to be included.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Program

Lombardo summarized report information on a proposed full-fledged Pay-As-You-Throw rubbish disposal program and Town-wide organic recycling program created by SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) Work Group that includes Lombardo, Johnson, Chelgren, Hamilton Recycling Committee member Gretel Clark, Hamilton Finance Director Deborah Nippes-Mena, Hamilton DPW

Director John Tomasz, Wenham resident/Green Community grant writer Sue Patroliia and DEP representative Carolyn Dann.

He encouraged residents to review report and said additional research may be needed. The two towns have had a track record of collaboration that would be conducive to such a program. In addition, the state by 2020 will require that solid waste disposal be reduced by 30% so this maximizes recycling and composting effort with households removing organics from waste stream (one-third of waste product is organic).

Lombardo mentioned that current recycling programs in both communities use same hauler and are source separated so this process along with one free barrel system lacks incentive to encourage people to recycle more.

The opportunity with a full-blown PAYT is the hauler would provide a weekly single stream or comingled recycling program (where recycled items are separated at the waste disposal facility) and Town-wide organic recycling.

Discussion about how wheel cart bins are more conducive for recycling and if they were provided in the two towns, this would offer another incentive for residents to recycle.

The more convenient single stream-recycling program would have financial incentives for greater waste reduction along with the opportunity to divert organics to an anaerobic digester at the Hamilton town landfill. The digester could be used by other communities and would provide electricity and biogas resulting in a revenue stream for the Town.

Lombardo noted that Hamilton has applied for a \$20,000 Green Communities grant from DEP that would pay for a fatal flaw study on proposed program. Study would analyze details including road traffic impact resulting from use of anaerobic digester.

Discussion about success in San Francisco where city uses total PAYT and recycles 72% of its solid waste, how disposing of less solid waste reduces hauling costs and tipping fees for burning waste at incinerator for a net cost reduction, and that PAYT bag revenues could bring down cost of rubbish disposal program.

Discussion about Hamilton bylaw allowing Hamilton Selectmen to vote on Town-wide organic recycling and full-fledged PAYT proposal for Town while

Wenham would require a Town Meeting vote to move forward. Hamilton Town officials and residents thought participation by Hamilton's Town Meeting would be sensible to get community buy-in for proposed program. Hamilton could move forward with a single collection contract with the hauler if Wenham voters did not approve program.

Discussion on proposed Town-wide organic recycling and PAYT programs will continue at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6 with Selectmen from both towns prior to Hamilton Board of Selectmen's meeting. At that time, more education on topic will be provided including additional case examples of financial impact and potential for tax reduction.

Scuteri entertained a motion for Hamilton Board of Selectmen to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Carey so moved. Stinson seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Dooley, Minutes Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Clerk