

Meeting Minutes
AQUATICS FACILITIES BUILDING COMMITTEE

Long Hill Room, Trumbull Town Hall

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Marsh at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Present

Jason Marsh
Brian Moore
Michael Redgate
Jay Orenstein
Mark Block

Absent

Mary Markham
Dennis Mucci
April Lange

Also Present:

Vicki Tesoro, Trumbull First Selectman; Kathleen McGannon, Chief Administrative Officer, Trumbull; Dimitri Paris, Superintendent, Parks & Recreation; Dawn Cantafio, Member of Community Facilities Building Committee.

Members of the public, including those commenting:

Harvey Mamriss, 45 West Lake Road
Jim Tracy, 78 Old Dyke Road
Mary Keane, 181 Pinewood Trail
Susan Gill Riley, Old Dyke Road
James Murko, 117 Old Dyke Road
Dave Cane, Old Saw Mill Road
Janet Epstein, 76 Old Dyke Road
Eric Walsh, 226 Palomino Pass
Tom Shetland, Old Dyke Road
Louise Perkins, 58 Old Dyke Road
Judy Sobeleski, 50 Old Dyke Road
Jeff Shake, 375 Booth Hill Road
Lori Shapiro, Old Dyke Road
Joe, Pinewood Trail

Jason Marsh noted that Paul Verbitsky is no longer on the Aquatics Committee.

Mr. Marsh invited the public to voice their concerns/comments.

Among the concerns raised by members of the public are:

- Concerned that if we are going to spend multi-millions, shouldn't we be looking to the future and let it be high-end pool which will make good use of money.
- Want to see research done on other potential pool sites and how the sites were ruled out.
- Feeling that Mr. Beach's purpose for deeding the property is not being respected--he wanted people to enjoy the park and his vision did not include an aquatics facility.
- Concerned with cars traveling the narrow and winding roads in and around Pinewood Lake.
- Feeling that a pool facility should be in or near a school so kids can access more conveniently and safely.
- Question on how specifically the aquatics facility will be used and who will use it besides Trumbull swim teams.
- Mr. Marsh interjected that we can't answer all the questions because the Committee's charge is to come up with a recommendation for a pool facility and location. More studies would be done if and when a site is chosen and approved.
- Concern with what would happen with any revenue from the pool
- Residents concerned with number of cars coming in and out of the park.
- Mr. Marsh reiterated that the Committee understands the concerns but we are not in a position or point in our process to get traffic studies done—we are nowhere close to that point. We are trying to work with neighbors, not against.
- Mr. Marsh said a referendum will be the ultimate determination by voters whether they want to undertake this project.
- Mr. Paris will speak about the Tashua location. Issues have come up with Tashua that may warrant taking a second look at it.
- Feeling that it will change character of the neighborhood.
- Asked if the Committee has contacted Westport Y to ask about their experiences.
- Will this pool be open for residential use when swim meets are not in session. Feels like there will be more parking issues, noise issues from increased people.
- Wants committee to work with different commissions to come up with a site location, as their input will have an impact.
- Issue of people parking on Old Dyke Rd and no room for fire trucks to get through, some residents will also have difficulty getting out of their own driveways.
- One resident asked on timing of Committee's decision process.
- Ms. Tesoro added that all of the town committees are open to the public and she encouraged all residents to attend, listen, comment and be engaged from the beginning. She reiterated that no site has been chosen--we are still studying this and the residents' input is important.
- Concern that deer population will be displaced and affect water quality in the area.

With no further comments from the residents, Mr. Marsh thanked them for attending and public comment was closed. Mr. Marsh welcomed the public to stay and listen to rest of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Orenstein to accept Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2020.

Vote: 4-1-0

Mr. Marsh told the Committee about a discussion with Mr. Paris on the outdoor pool at Tashua and how it will need significant repairs in the near future. In that light, Mr. Paris posited whether we should re-examine the Tashua site again and think about undertaking repairs/modification to existing pool and locate the new aquatics facilities next to it.

Mr. Paris introduced himself and offered to give some insight and clarity around the pool site recommendations.

Mr. Paris stated that he has been watching the evolving conversation for a new aquatics facility for years. The outdoor Tashua pool has problems and the Town is facing serious capital outlay. The work needed keeps getting delayed, but time is running out and the pool will need an investment soon. Mr. Paris reiterated nothing is set in concrete and it will take a long time to build a new aquatics facility. We are still looking at basic feasibility. Mr. Paris believes we have the opportunity to improve existing Tashua pool problems by linking it to a new aquatics facility at the same location.

In Mr. Paris's opinion, the most prudent way to move forward is to look at short list of attributes and deficits of sites and tighten up where the committee is and why. We will have to engage with other commissions – Inlands/Wetlands, Parks and Recreation, etc., and Mr. Paris is willing to be present at those meetings to provide input.

Mr. Marsh asked the Committee to revisit the motion made at December meeting regarding site selection.

Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Orenstein to re-open discussion on considering various sites for recommendation to Town Council which include Tashua and Beach subject to further review should additional information become manifest.

Vote: 5-0-0

Discussion took place on what would be done to put an aquatics facility in Tashua, including the septic and sewer issue that would need to be addressed. Mr. Block asked Mr. Paris if he could give a ball park estimate if we were to rehab/extend the Hillcrest Pool. Mr. Paris believes it would cost significantly more than building a new pool due to demolition costs. Discussion included the potential of rehabbing the Tashua pool with the new aquatics facility. Mr. Block asked if there are any concerns about parking at Tashua, and Mr. Paris believes we would have room for extending parking as we own the property there. Mr. Paris is of the opinion that Tashua is almost a "mini-country club" because of the golf course, tennis courts and adding an indoor aquatics facility there would improve everything in that area.

Mr. Marsh said that if we want Mr. Wiles to conceptualize the facility on the Tashua site, we need to let him know and find the funds to pay him. A discussion then ensued on getting estimates from constructions companies.

Mr. Block asked Mr. Paris if there are any other sites we should consider. Mr. Paris

stated that all the properties will have pros and cons and discussed some of the choices. From his perspective of managing pools, Mr. Paris would make a decision on what will give the biggest return for the dollar. Mr. Block asked what is the most significant issue he sees with the Tashua location. Mr. Paris believes the concern would be a dramatic uptick in traffic in the lower side of Tashua and that may need to be addressed in some way.

Mr. Marsh stated that we will get building cost estimates by Bismark Construction at no cost to the Town.

Community Survey

Mr. Marsh recapped how at the December meeting, the Committee felt a survey was unnecessary. At the January Town Council meeting, the Council felt strongly that a survey was, in fact, necessary and so we must revisit the issue. The implication was that the Town Council would pass resolution to force us to do a survey. In light of this, Dawn Cantafio of the Community Facilities Building Committee, joined in to give an update on the survey.

The survey provider's cost estimate is significantly lower than the original vendor we had. Ms. Cantafio discussed the survey and explained how it will inform the residents as well as give them a chance to provide input. The roll-out will be in a few weeks, and it will go out via regular mail and email. Ms. Cantafio said the Committee will get a chance to see the survey before it gets sent out. Mr. Marsh said that he would take comments/input from Committee members on the survey, but no business will be conducted related to it.

Moved by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Block to participate in survey in conjunction with the Community Facilities Building Committee.

Vote: 5-0-0

Moved by Mr. Redgate, seconded by Mr. Block to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Vote: 5-0-0

Submitted by

Marisa Petriello