

# Town of Hartford, Vermont Pool Advisory Committee

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 22, 2018**

Revised May 30, 2018

Present: Chris Hamilton, Scott Hausler, Joe James, ~~Steve Lagasse~~, Brett Mayfield, Skip Nalette, Hilde Ojibway, David Sherman, Scott Snyder, Joseph Trottier, Mike Vanesse.

Unable to attend: Kim Souza, Steve Lagasse.

Meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. in Room 312, Town Hall. All present introduced themselves.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting May 15, 2018 were approved by motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

## Review of Agenda

Mr. James requested that Item 5 (Review the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Pool Assessment) precede Item 4 (Form committee subgroups).

## Review the RFP for the Pool Assessment

Mr. Hausler, who had emailed the committee to address a couple issues raised at the May 15th meeting, followed up on those points: The Parks & Recreation Commission (P&R) basically knows the condition of the existing pool and that certain repairs are needed to use it again, which it had estimated at about \$320,000, at a minimum. Before spending that much, the public would want an independent assessment. Thus this pool committee was formed to gather its own or outside expertise to validate the repair costs, as well as to determine what the community supports.

Mr. James asked to what extent this committee should attempt to assess existing pool conditions if pro's are being brought in, which seems a good idea. Mr. Hausler explained P&R did not want to wait for the pool committee to get organized before issuing the RFP, which asked for a full scope of services.

Regarding the committee conducting a community survey, Mr. Hausler cautioned that the method be carefully chosen to obtain statistically valid results.

Ms. Ojibway noted a mismatch between the timeline and tasks for the committee, whose charge is broader than just repairing the pool. Mr. Hausler advised selecting a firm to engage its services one step at a time, starting with assessment to repair existing conditions, and then putting costs to other options before conducting a community survey. Mr. Nalette observed that obtaining costs entails getting to the last steps of the RFP scope. Mr. Snyder proposed two surveys, the first of which would not offer options and so not require knowing costs, but rather should occur as soon as possible and ask specific questions about frequency of use and likes or dislikes about the existing pool, its location, amenities, etc., to help guide the feasibility studies. The second survey would happen later after clear options are developed with cost estimates.

Mr. Trottier suggested we look at the pool as an interim step, perhaps it gets relocated and other recreational amenities added, possibly leading to the development of a full recreation center, in which case a group such as YMCA could provide planning assistance.

Mr. Mayfield recounted that within the Selectboard and P&R, too, there may be some opposition to the town even having a pool, so the committee should gauge that sentiment right away, though it does not relieve the need to assess accurate repair costs.

Mr. Hamilton asked where the committee scope ends, e.g., are a track and other amenities included in the charge? Mr. Hausler confirmed that, yes, the charge asks us to think ahead and be vision-oriented. It was necessary to close the pool for this season; as a taxpayer himself Mr. Hausler could not justify paying the substantial repair costs only to end up with the same old pool.

Speculation over where else a pool might be located led to Ms. Ojibway asserting that we pursue parallel tracks, that we cannot wait to finish the assessment to begin community outreach. Discussion followed about where and how to poll the public. P&R will share with the committee questions from a prior pool survey. All agreed the survey should not be too long.

### Form committee subgroups

Back to Item 4 on the agenda, Mr. James suggested that, in addition to working on a survey, the external subgroup study precedents to learn what other pools have cost, and what features they have. Meanwhile, the internal subgroup should narrow the RFP list down to 2 or 3 firms.

Next week, the two subgroups will split into separate rooms and reconvene at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Nalette wondered if the RFP selection process could be further expedited, and members agreed to each evaluate the firms independently and then share their recommendations for the internal subgroup to discuss next meeting. Mr. Mayfield reminded the group that according to open meeting law, emails regarding committee business can contain information only, not opinions, which must be saved for meetings.

### Shedule future site visit

The committee postponed a visit to the existing for at least two weeks.

### New business

Ms. Ojibway asked when the high school lot will be repaved; Mr. James stated that would happen this year. Mr. Mayfield asked about use of Lake Pinneo; Mr. Hausler stated no announcement had been made. It was noted that such information would be useful to have on a fact sheet to accompany a public survey.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Scott Snyder, Recording Secretary