



[Home](#) > [Wayland Town Crier](#) > [Local News](#) >  [RSS Feed](#)

Town pool to remain open

By **Katie Liesener**/ Staff Writer
Thursday, February 9, 2006

In a large room in Town Building crowded with parents and swimmers of all ages, the Park & Recreation Commission decided Monday night to keep the town pool open for another year under a business plan proposed by parents that would limit pool use to swim team rentals.

The town pool, which was slated to close in March and be demolished at a later date, had operated at a \$128,000 loss in fiscal year 2005. Commission member Anna Meliones said the prospect of continued losses of that size was the reason she voted to close the pool in the commission's initial decision five months ago.

"Our hands were really tied," she said.

But Meliones changed her vote Monday night, she said, because of the initiative parents showed to create and carry out a plan that could keep the pool operating at a significantly smaller loss.

"We can't just close our eyes to it," she said of the surge of parental support.

Over 60 parents so far have pledged to donate an hour or more of volunteer time every week to keep the pool running.

In their meeting with the commission two weeks prior, parents had estimated their plan would result in the pool operating at a \$20,000 loss. At Monday night's meeting they presented a more conservative estimate of \$32,460, which is still within the \$33,600 budget established for the upcoming year.

That budget reflects the cost for upkeep until demolition if the pool would have been closed.

As part of its decision to keep the pool open, the commission stipulated that if parents exceed that budget, they will have to make up the difference in fund-raising. If major capital improvements are required during the year, parents will be responsible for covering those costs as well.

In addition, the commission requested that the parents draft contracts with interested swim teams and that regular meetings be held among parents, the commission and Wayland Aquatic Community Center Inc. (WACCI), a community organization hoping to raise funds to build a new community center and pool.

The purpose of those meetings - the commission's first with WACCI - would be to synchronize efforts toward the building of a new pool and set tangible benchmarks for fund-raising and planning.

In their first coordinated efforts with WACCI, parents will start administering surveys to 400 Wayland residents this week to determine what components they would like to see in a new community center.

Parents will also be overseeing pool operations in cooperation with Nancy McShea, Park & Recreation director, who said she is concerned that some of the estimated costs in the parents' plan may be too low.

She recommended to the commission that they close the pool, as the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee also did this year. Apart from the commission, no other town board has formally weighed in on the issue.

McShea said she is worried about unforeseen capital expenses for the 36-year-old pool. Though the parents agreed that capital expenses would be their responsibility, she said there is a tendency to look to the Park & Recreation Department's "fee-based budget as a means to answer all financial problems."

Meliones said she is confident parents will live up to their agreement.

"(Keeping the pool open) could possibly become a financial burden," she said. "But I don't believe this group will let it be."

Meliones said the commission even received a letter from a resident, who does not have children in a swim program, but has offered \$10,000 a year for up to four years to help keep the pool open until a new one can be built.

The commission will meet with parents throughout the year to monitor the pool's finances. How successful parents are in keeping to the budget will likely be a key determinant when the commission must vote again down the road whether to extend the pool's life for a subsequent year.

Though the commission's decision Monday night will not directly affect him, Chris Hoy, a Wayland High School senior and four-year member of the swim team, spoke at the meeting in support of keeping the pool open. The senior class swim team has a record of 50 wins and 6 losses and placed

Herald Interactive Tools



[Recent articles](#)



[E-mail article to a friend](#)



[View graphic version](#)



[Get RSS feed](#)



[Search site](#)








[Sign up for home delivery](#)

second in the state last year.

Swimming at the pool "has been great for me," he said. "It's a great resource for the town to have."

Recent articles

-  [School trainer gets award](#)
-  [Working toward a Town Center compromise](#)
-  [School budget would require an override](#)
-  [Teenagers to discuss experiences at interfaith camp](#)
-  [Just 'Try-It' with Girl Scouts](#)

Today's most read Town Online articles Updated 3:12 PM ET

1. [Teens arrested on drug charges](#)(360)
2. [Police look into family's past in murder case](#)(171)
3. [City demands warrant in FBI investigation](#)(163)
4. [Sister says brother's death no laughing matter](#)(156)
5. [Police push for leads in slaying of mother and daughter](#)(132)

Search the site

[[contact us](#)] :: [[print advertising](#)] :: [[online advertising](#)] :: [[Browser Upgrade](#)] :: [[Jobs](#)] :: [Click here for home delivery](#) or call **1.800.982.4023**

© Copyright by Community Newspaper Co. and Herald Media.

No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)



Enterprise-level broadband service provided by
[Expedient: America's Largest All-Ethernet Network](#)



Wireless broadband service
provided by [Towerstream](#)

bh.heraldinteractive.com: 0.067 : Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 GMT