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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A New Pool for Wayland – Design and Fundraising Underway

(Wayland, MA) – March 26, 2008 – The Wayland Town Pool has been essential in the lives of Wayland residents since it was originally built in 1969. Having a pool in town has been significant for all residents from our promising, young athletes, (many who have gone on to swim and dive for college teams), toddlers learning to swim and adults and seniors who have used the pool for regular exercise.

Based on a thorough facility evaluation from the Park and Recreation Department, the current Wayland Town Pool will permanently close its doors in March '09 due to structural and financial reasons. In 2004, a Wayland citizen group formed a not-for-profit organization (a registered 501c3) called Wayland Community Pool (WCP) for the purpose of designing and building a new aquatics facility. This committee has done extensive research on site possibilities, business planning, cost analysis and facility planning, working closely with Wayland Park and Recreation staff. As a result, plans for a new community pool are underway for the existing land parcel next to the high school.

The Park and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to have the Town Pool parcel of land transferred from the Park & Rec Commission to the control of the Board of Selectmen. The BOS can then vote on offering for bid (leasing) this parcel to an entity for the purpose of planning and constructing a new pool facility for town recreational use. WCP will bid on the proposal, which will have very specific bid requirements (size of pool, facilities, use by town teams and programs). Upon completion of the project, the pool will be leased back to Park & Rec for town use. The Finance Committee voted 4-0 in favor of this land transfer. Article 19, in April's town meeting, will likely be presented on Monday, April 14th and will need a majority vote in favor of the land transfer for this to occur. (Copy of the article is enclosed)

The WCP project is estimated to cost \$3.5 million. This budget includes reusing or renovating as much of the existing facility as possible. These funds will be generated solely through private donations. A town-wide fundraising initiative will be launched in early April. Memberships and usage fees from teams and groups will sustain a steady income for the pool to meet operational costs.

Design plans for the Wayland Community Pool currently include up to ten regulation lanes, diving well, removable roof structure for summer memberships, larger pool deck (than existing pool) and energy-efficient facilities. Around the pool will be a building with locker rooms, office space and a multi-purpose room. The WCP will likely have several designated parking places as well as continuing to share use of the high school parking lot. The pool is being designed to accommodate summer memberships, so

Careful consideration is being given to creating a buffer of trees and shrubs around the building and a significantly improved “look”.

Provided that the committee raises necessary funds and all permitting takes place, plans call for the demolition of the existing pool and construction of the new pool as early as the spring of 2009. An aggressive goal is to open the new pool in time for the Warrior’s winter swim season in October. The high school Warrior teams (swimmers and divers) and the Jr. Warriors will use the WCP for practice and meets. In addition to leasing the pool out for summer memberships, Park & Rec will offer aquatic programs such as lap swim, adult water exercise classes, swimming and diving lessons and life guard certification. The pool could also be leased out to other area swim teams and rented out for birthday parties and private functions.

“In proposing this new pool, the Wayland Community Pool committee has studied the problems with the current pool business model and looked at various alternatives for the project”, states Benjamin Downs, President, WCP. “After extensive review, we believe that an indoor-outdoor pool with summer memberships offers the best business model for success. The long wait at other local outdoor pools suggests significant demand for this facility. In addition, the population density near the high school should offer a strong support base for a community pool.”

For more information about the new pool or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact Benjamin Downs.

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