

Wayland Town Pool

History Fact Sheet

1943: Town House organization was incorporated. Facility built at current site for “the purpose of setting up programs of education, culture and social relationships primarily for the youth of Wayland,” according to Parmalee Hill, Chairman of The Building Committee. (Wayland/Weston Town Crier – 7/29/82) The building housed a private kindergarten and day care center during this time.

1958: Summer Adventure Day Camp begun at the Town House facility

1960s: a survey revealed a town-wide interest in a new indoor pool

1969: new pool was built. It was funded by private donations totaling \$300,000.

1969—1982 and beyond: “Water Safety instructor Edith Pollack began teaching babies to swim when the indoor pool first opened on Old Connecticut Path 12 years ago ... (In 1982) Pollack still teaches a mother and babies class, but also instructs all ages, including classes specifically for mentally and physically handicapped persons.” (Wayland/Weston Town Crier – 7/29/82)

- Babysitting available at the center for parents swimming or taking a course
- Summer Adventure uses pool for daily swim lessons
- Lessons in springboard diving, scuba diving, and competitive swimming are offered
- Red Cross basic swimming instruction, endurance training and lifesaving offered
- Lap swimming, therapeutic swimming and recreational swimming are scheduled

1972: first swim team (all girls). Wayland High School girls’ swim/dive team wins the state championship in 1974, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

1983: Wayland High School boys’ team started. Team finishes second at state championship meet in 1999 and 2005.

1986: Expansion announced to create Town House Community Center. Plans for fundraising effort to raise \$500,000. Designs and models prepared.

1987: Groundbreaking for expansion of pool community center (photo in Wayland/Weston Town Crier) – Community Center was never built.

1990: Pool closed due to annual costs exceeding \$250,000. “The 21 year old pool closed on May 25 because of financial problems that stemmed from the down turn in the economy and competition from trendier pools and fitness centers in the area ...

board members negotiating with Metrowest YMCA ... as well as Suburban YMCA in Newton about leasing or buying ..." (Middlesex News – 6/25/90). Summer Adventure Day Camp (based out of high school) uses the pool in summer.

Early 1990s: Metrowest YMCA takes over pool and keeps it operating.

1998: Dec 3 Town Meeting (Article 10) – acquires Town House pool for \$1.00 and appropriates \$250,000 for repairs. Article passed unanimously.

2001: Wayland Junior Warriors (town recreational swim team) wins first league championship.

2004: A Wayland citizen group formed a not-for-profit organization (a registered 501c3) now called Wayland Community Pool (WCP) for the purpose of designing and building a new aquatics facility.

2005: Town decides to close pool due to annual operating losses exceeding \$125,000.

2006: WCP works with Park and Rec to keep pool open for rentals only, allowing Wayland swim teams (high school and recreation) and others to continue using pool. Cost to operate is significantly reduced and is controlled at a level consistent with mothballing the facility.

2008: Based on a facility evaluation, Wayland Park & Recreation Department, announces that the pool will close permanently in March '09 due to structural and financial issues. Fundraising and design plans are underway for a new pool to be built in '09. Article 19 in Wayland's April Town Meeting could transfer the land to WCP for the purpose of building a new pool. Upon completion of the project, the pool will be leased back to Park & Rec for town recreation use.