

ARTICLE 40 Submitted by; Alisa Jonas (TMM 16), Tracie Burns (TMM 8), Rosanna Cavallaro (resident precinct 8), Alec Lebovitz (TMM 8), Joanna Mark (resident precinct 16), Lynda Roseman (TMM 14), Kathleen Scanlon (TMM 3), Maura Toomey (TMM 2), Anne Turner (resident precinct 3), Marissa Voigt (TMM 6), Amanda Zimmerman (TMM 7) To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS access to outdoor fitness opportunities is important for the health and wellness of Brookline's residents;

WHEREAS water recreation and fitness exercises (e.g., lap swimming, water play, water aerobics and other low-weight-bearing exercises, water volleyball, competitive swimming) are some of the healthiest forms of exercise and can be done by persons of all ages and physical abilities;

WHEREAS, as the summers get hotter, making other outdoor fitness and recreational activities both less enjoyable and, for many members of the population, not feasible due to health risks of over-heating, outdoor water fitness activities will become increasingly important;

WHEREAS many Brookline households have the means to own a vacation home close to water, to join a private club, or to have their own backyard pool, while many other households do not have those options, and yet all of the Town's households should have the opportunity to swim outdoors, one of the highlights of summer time, and some of the best memories of childhood;

WHEREAS vulnerability assessments have identified areas in Brookline where the populations are disproportionately impacted by extreme heat due to their proximity to so-called "heat islands";

WHEREAS the world's experience with COVID, combined with scientific assessments that other pandemics will likely arise more frequently due to increased travel, has made more urgent the need for outdoor fitness and community activities;

WHEREAS the lack of an outdoor public pool precludes the opportunity for community members to build shared experiences, appreciate differences, and welcome residents of all ages from across the town;

WHEREAS a community pool would serve to address the need for loosely supervised recreational and physical activities for our teens who do not have access to private facilities, camps, and programs, especially in the summer;

WHEREAS it is critical that all young people learn to swim so as to avoid drowning, which is a leading cause of death in children; and Brookline's current facility lacks the physical capacity to meet the demand, resulting in oversubscribed lessons;

WHEREAS recently constructed municipal outdoor pools with modern amenities generate more revenue than they expend in operating costs, resulting in net revenue to the community;

WHEREAS the construction of an outdoor community pool complex has a very reasonable price tag when compared to the cost of other capital projects;<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS a pool complex, including several pools, green space, bathhouse, and café; uses a surprisingly small footprint, generally about ½ acre, and so can be sited at locations that could also be the site of other complementary facilities;<sup>6</sup> ENDNOTES <sup>3</sup> For example, zero-depth entry, which is more accessible for young children, seniors, and those with disabilities, connected splash pads, greenery and/or café

tables for seating 4 Belmont, Wayland, and Lexington all generate more revenue (e.g., memberships, swim lessons, community events held at the pool, aerobics classes) than they expend in annual operating costs. An estimate of Belmont's net revenue for 2020 was \$136,000. 5 The capital cost for the recently constructed Belmont pool complex, which included 2 pools, 2 bathhouses, decking and greenspace surrounding the pools, and a café area was \$5.3 million, and the Waltham community pool cost \$6 million, including the cost of Hazmat remediation on the site, solar panels and making the project zero net energy. Needham's large multi-pool complex, including an Olympic-sized lap pool, other pools and splash pads, with challenging construction on a steep slope and a small community center with gym and offices, was \$14 million. For comparative purposes, Brookline spent \$7 million on the (beautiful) Fisher Hill Park and the current CIP includes \$3 million for improvements to Skyline Park (\$2 million for improved bathrooms and some added walking paths and \$1 million to replace the artificial turf field), and the indoor rink complex is projected to cost \$35-50 million. 6 For example, Belmont's complex is 22,000 sq. ft, which is approximately ½ acre, and includes separate areas for lap swimming, diving, and recreational activities, a bathhouse, greenery, and a café space. At the Newbury site, at 3.14 acres, such a complex would take up less than 1/6 of the acreage.

WHEREAS most of the larger towns (20,000 +) in the Greater Boston area provide their residents with at least one – and sometimes more than one - outdoor swimming option (pool, pond, or lake swimming facilities), frequently in addition to an indoor pool, even though many of these communities are considerably less populated than Brookline;

WHEREAS, as summer temperatures become more common in spring and fall, the outdoor swimming season has become longer, currently from Memorial Day through the end of September;

WHEREAS solar or other renewable sources of power can provide the energy needed for a community outdoor pool; heating can extend the seasons, and a relatively low cost bubble<sup>8</sup> can provide for year-round use;

WHEREAS Brookline's 2001 Needs Assessment found that more than two-thirds of Brookline residents have expressed interest in outdoor fitness, second only to performing arts;<sup>9</sup> and further, determined that the Town's next steps include the completion of a feasibility study for a public outdoor pool; WHEREAS the 2005-2015 Comprehensive Plan analysis continued to show strong interest by the public in an outdoor community pool, ranking it among the highest priority items, and again included the feasibility study for a pool as an action item, this time for the 2005-2015 time frame;

WHEREAS the 2020 Parks Open Space and Recreation Strategic Asset Master Plan Update ("Plan Update") survey of residents found that the percent of residents who rated the future need for a public outdoor pool as important or very important<sup>10</sup> was higher than that for the majority of other future needs, exceeded only by improved trail connectivity, improved biking infrastructure, improved sanctuaries, and improved amenities (e.g., parking and equipment); <sup>11</sup> 7 DCR's newly built pool in Waltham uses solar energy and is a net zero. 8 Wayland installed a bubble for year-round use in the late 2010s at a capital cost of \$250,000, with annual heating and other operating expenses exceeded by revenue. 9 2001 Brookline Recreation Department assessment, based on a written survey, focus groups and a public meeting. The next most frequently cited interests were – in order of popularity - indoor fitness, arts and crafts, environmental activities, special events, aquatics, self-improvement, and sports and athletics <sup>10</sup> Rating the outdoor pool either a 4 or a 5 out of a ranking scale of 1-5, with 1 being Not at All Important and 5 being Very Important. <sup>11</sup> At 48%, ranking only behind improved trail connectivity

(65%), improved biking infrastructure (66%), additional sanctuaries/nature center (64%), and improved amenities (e.g., parking, equipment)(52%), followed closely by athletic fields (47%), recreation center (45%), and improved aquatic facilities (46%); with indoor leisure play pool, indoor skating rink and additional gymnasiums ranked 4-5 by 30%, 26% and 11%, respectively. Note that while another survey question asked participants how they would divide a hypothetical \$100 among a group of options for future needs, an outdoor pool was not included as one of the choices, and so that set of 68

WHEREAS, according to the National Sporting Goods Association, swimming ranked second in fitness activities nationwide in terms of participation in 2018.

WHEREAS, according to the 2006 Master Plan, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standard for public pools has been one public pool per 20,000 in population; and Brookline, with a population of 61,000 has only one public pool; and further, according to the Plan Update, applying the 2019 NRPA Park Performance Review to Brookline, the Town needs to add 2 outdoor pools to meet the median for comparatively-sized similar communities;

WHEREAS, although the Reilly Pool in Brighton has been suggested as an option for Brookline residents seeking outdoor swimming options, it is an old pool with limited amenities: It does not allow any kind of chairs at the pool, it has no separation of the pool for different uses (such as an area for laps for adults and recreation for children), it has limited provision to enable young children, the elderly and the disabled to enter the pool, no facilities for younger children to play, solely concrete surrounding the pool, no opportunities for the Town to provide activities for its residents (e.g., swimming lessons, aerobics classes, swim meets, evening events, etc.), and on that same theme, it is not a community pool for the residents of the Town of Brookline.

WHEREAS, although the 2020 Plan Update states that “[s]plash pads are...becoming increasingly important because of climate change, and the increasing need for accessible cooling hubs as cities experience hotter, drier summers,” splash pads are used by only very young children, and the 2020 Plan Update no longer explicitly mentions a feasibility study for an outdoor community pool to address those needs for other residents, making it all the more important to reassert that need.

WHEREAS an outdoor community pool working group identified several possible Brookline sites, as called for by passage of Warrant Article 30 of the Spring 2019 Town Meeting, and other possibilities exist that were not discussed at the working group, including land on private property for which a private/public partnership might be possible; responses cannot be used for comparative purposes when analyzing residents’ interest in an outdoor community pool. 12 According to Brookline’s Strategic Asset Master Plan of 2006: “The top four free-time activities for all Americans for the last decade have been and remain: watching television, reading, socializing with friends and family, and shopping. Swimming and walking are the only two physical activities that make the top ten on the list.” 13 This Plan Update instead recommends a \$75,000-100,000 feasibility study for improving the indoor pool and Tappan Gym and \$500,000 for consulting fees to identify a location and develop conceptual plans for an indoor full-size ice-skating rink, in addition to the \$50,000 feasibility study for an indoor athletic/recreation center, which had been included in the previous plans together with the outdoor pool feasibility study.

WHEREAS the need for an outdoor community pool has been called for as far back as 2001, with the explicit directive to develop a feasibility study in both the 2001 and 2006 assessments of the Town’s park and recreational needs; which directive should finally be acted upon, particularly as recent changes

in our environment (longer and warmer summers and a pandemic) have made the need for an outdoor community pool greater over time;

WHEREAS the Spring 2019 Warrant Article 30 instructed that the site selection analysis be preparatory for a more comprehensive study of feasibility to be initiated thereafter; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Town Meeting calls for a long-overdue feasibility study for the development of a net zero emissions<sup>14</sup> outdoor community swimming facility for Brookline residents, to be led by either the Department of Parks and Open Space or the Department of Recreation, as determined by the Select Board; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study shall identify the most well-suited sites, following consideration of a range of sites for an outdoor swimming facility, and that this analysis shall (i) include a range of options that include but are not limited to Newbury College, the Department of Public Works site at Larz Anderson, redesign of a portion of the Soule Recreation Center land/parking lots that could be better utilized, a carved-out parcel of the 120 acre golf course land, or use of private land; (ii) take into consideration any advantages of siting the outdoor swimming facility together with other complementary Town facilities, such as the ice skating rink or a recreation center; (iii) prioritize equitable access by vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by extreme heat or who have limited economic means to access private swimming pools and swimming lessons; and (iv) assess the cost of a circuit shuttle for locations that are not close to public transportation; and <sup>14</sup> Net zero emissions is defined as follows: a) A Zero Emissions facility is a facility that is Fossil Fuel Free (FFF) and Net Zero Energy (NZE). b) Fossil Fuel Free means that the facility uses no fossil fuels for heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (HVAC), for domestic hot water, for cooking, or for any other purpose. c) The facility may have emergency electricity generators that use fossil fuels. d) The facility should not only be FFF on site, but also from the source. That is, the electricity used on site should be from renewable sources. This will require the purchase of 100% renewable electricity or renewable energy certificates. Any renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with either on-site or off-site energy generation must be retained or retired to prevent double counting. e) Net Zero Energy means that the facility produces as much energy as it consumes over the course of a year. This requires low energy consumption (gross EUI or Energy Use Intensity measured in kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup>/year) along with on-site renewable energy generation (gross REI or Renewable Energy Intensity also measured in kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup>/year), presumably provided by solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Net Zero Energy means that gross REI equals or is greater than gross EUI. f) For the facility, not just site EUI, but rather source EUI should be considered since that more accurately represents the carbon impacts of different fuel sources. Source energy accounts for upstream generation impacts of the fuel source, such as natural gas burned to generate electricity. Any renewable energy certificates (RECs) associated with on-site or off-site energy generation must be retained or retired to prevent double counting. 70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$75,000 for the cost of the study shall either be included in the FY24 funding from a portion of the Community Preservation fund that is dedicated to recreation or be included in the FY24 Capital Improvements Plan; with a completion date for the feasibility study of July 1, 2024. Or act on anything relative thereto.