

Re: Oxford Pool/YMCA project update

March 31, 2010

Dear Oxford Community,

We are sending this letter to update you on the progress of the Oxford Pool/YMCA project.

How the project began. In 2005 a group of residents organized as a working committee to create a swimming pool for the residents of Oxford. A referendum was held on June 20, 2006 which read: “Should the Commissioners of Oxford make surplus town land available to a private, not-for-profit, non-taxpayer funded entity, for the construction, maintenance, and operation for a community swimming pool for use by the members of the local community?” The referendum passed with a majority vote, “Yes”.

Oxford Pool / YMCA collaboration. In December 2009, members of the Oxford Pool Committee met with Robbie Gill, the president of the Talbot County YMCA, to discuss the YMCA’s proposed expansion plans in the Mid-Shore Counties, and to ask if the YMCA would be interested in collaborating with the Oxford Pool project. Mr. Gill expressed his enthusiastic support of being part of a project like the Oxford Pool. In January, the YMCA board endorsed its support toward collaborating on the project.

Site. The site currently proposed is the fourth one that has been considered. The previous ones were eliminated due to proximity to residences, size, location, and storm water management concerns. This site is located on Town property behind the Oxford Fire Company at the end of East Pier Street in the commercial area of Oxford. Lane Engineering has conducted studies of the site to determine its appropriateness.

Scope. The intention for the project is to build a small satellite YMCA aquatic / wellness facility to enhance the wellness needs, interests, and activities of Oxford’s residents and their families. It could provide an added amenity to the Oxford Kids Camp, the Oxford Coast Guard Station, and the Oxford Fire Company.

How collaboration with the YMCA can benefit the project. Over 400 Oxford families are current members of the YMCA, and have high confidence in its management and operations. The YMCA has the experience, expertise and resources to help design and fully manage a pool / wellness facility including certified staff, hiring and training, tested maintenance systems, and liability insurance. The YMCA of Talbot County is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization that serves 1 in 3 community residents and 1 in 2 children. The YMCA has been serving Talbot County since 1954 and would bring long term sustainability to the project. We can be confident an Oxford YMCA facility would always be a place where families and community come together.

Who will pay for the project? The project will be entirely privately funded through fundraising efforts. Town funds will not be used nor will the project affect the tax base.

The project’s Advisory Committee is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for the project. In order to best gather and incorporate the Oxford community’s wellness needs and interests, ideas, suggestions, and concerns, the Committee will soon send a Community Interest Survey to all Oxford residents. After the results of the survey are in, a Concept Plan will be presented to the Town Commissioners in the next few months. For up-to-date information about the project, and if you would like to contact us, please visit: www.oxfordpool.org and click on the link Get Involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Lisa Johnson (sailoft@gmail.com)
Acting President
Oxford Pool Committee

Robbie Gill
President
Talbot County YMCA