

Second Public Forum exploring possible options for Nichewaug Inn property to be held on November 7th

The Selectboard is convening the second public forum on exploring possible options for the town's Nichewaug Inn & Academy property. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7th in the Petersham Town Hall, lower level, at 6:30pm. Bart Wendell, Petersham's town moderator and a professional facilitator, will continue to lead the meetings. Following up on the successful first meeting, the second forum will build on the ideas and input of the more than 55 residents who attended the session held on October 17th.

The focus of the first meeting was on 'ideal uses' and the consequences/advantages of leaving the building and property as is for the foreseeable future. The focus for this 2nd meeting will be to discuss 'drivers' (issues and outcomes that should influence any action concerning the Nichewaug), and possible unintended consequences of any action or inaction. Future agenda items will include determining what additional information will be necessary for the town to make a decision as well as other variables that could affect the timeline for decision-making.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. This is an exploratory process to provide insight to the Board of Selectman and Town Meeting based on the collective wisdom of the participants.

The goal is to explore whether town residents can formulate an approach to the Nichewaug property for the future. The plan is to explore the potential for a consensus proposal as well as its limits. The end product will evolve based on the participants in the room. It is assumed that there will be a number of such meetings and that information collected in each meeting will be brought forward to the following meeting so that as little is lost as possible. This will continue to be a broad discussion with the hope that the conversation can lead to feasible solutions for the Nichewaug property to which all or at least two-thirds of Petersham voters might be expected to agree to at a town meeting.

All are encouraged to come. The hope is that all viewpoints will be present. Background information concerning this property is posted on the 'Nichewaug Property' page under the 'Town Business' tab of Petersham's website, <http://www.townofpetersham.org/>. For more information about these forums, please contact Bart Wendell @ bwendell@me.com or 978.724.0400.