

At their meeting on September 11 the Selectboard decided to convene an open meeting and general discussion on the **Nichewaug property** and to ask Bart Wendell to be the facilitator. The meeting will be held upstairs in the **Petersham Town Hall at 6:30 on Wednesday, October 17th**. The initial meeting is anticipated to last 90 minutes.

Please join a gathering of Petersham residents to exchange ideas and identify common concerns with the help of a facilitator, in an effort to move ahead as a community on exploring possible options for the town-owned Nichewaug Inn & Academy Property. The meeting will be a convening of residents. It is neither an official Town Meeting nor a formal meeting of any town Board or Committee. The Selectboard is simply serving as a convener but will have no formal role. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

The goal is to explore whether we, as residents, can formulate an approach to the Nichewaug for the future. We will 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 this will be the first of several such meetings and that information collected in each meeting will be brought forward to the following meetings so that as little is lost as possible.

The range of discussion topics may include seeking common community values on things such as the type and level of use, the scale of any possible development, the cost to the town and amount of possible financial return, and the amount of public open space retained on this property. This will be a broad discussion but there is a 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.

Bart Wendell, our town moderator and also a professional facilitator, will lead the meetings. He will begin by developing a set of ground rules, and his role will be primarily to keep the agreed ground rules in effect and support the group in moving forward. ALL are encouraged to come. This process will be effective only if there is a cross-section of views represented and the hope is that ALL viewpoints will be present.