



Belmont Citizen Herald Question:

Name a recent town building project which you would say is a good example of how to handle such a project and how would the lessons learned from that example be used toward future building projects?

Adam's Response:

The best, and most recent, example is the Underwood Pool, for which I was Vice Chair of the Building Committee. With the old pool set to be closed by the state, we quickly mobilized. The project used creative funding sources, worked with residents to improve the plans, and came in on time and under budget.

The project was funded through a combination of CPA funds, a debt exclusion passed by voters, and private fundraising (including \$200,000 grant from Belmont Savings Bank and over 400 individual donations from Belmont residents).

We learned what people wanted in their new pool, and what their concerns were, through multiple public meetings and 550+ online survey responses. By working together, we created a win-win design. This led to a very successful debt exclusion vote and near-unanimous Town Meeting approval. By working diligently, the Building Committee met an aggressive schedule and restored an important community asset.

The pool is now a popular meeting spot, with a 200% increase in membership. While the old pool lost money, the new pool generates revenue for the town. In planning ahead, I would like to reserve some pool revenue in a maintenance account for future repairs.

We should use the same principles for future projects – listen carefully, find collaborative solutions, think creatively about funding, and focusing on getting the job done expeditiously. When we see a need, we should take action. I did that as part of the pool committee, and I will do the same as Selectman.