

# Elementary School Building Committee

## *Frequently Asked Questions about Article 43*

*The Elementary School Building Committee is recommending a “Yes” vote on Article 43, acquisition of property at 135 Hayden Rowe. Here are the answers to some questions which will help inform your vote.*

### **What is the Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC)?**

- The ESBC is a committee formed by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee in March 2013 to facilitate a solution to the educational and operational constraints at Center School.

### **Why is the ESBC recommending purchase of 135 Hayden Rowe (Article 43)?**

- After careful and exhaustive consideration of options, the ESBC has identified the Irvine property, 135 Hayden Rowe, as the preferred site for a new pre-K through 1st grade building that will solve the operational and educational constraints at Center School.

### **Were other locations considered for a solution?**

- Locations considered included augmenting the Center School site with acquisition of an abutting property at 25 Ash Street, acquiring the Todaro property at 147 Hayden Rowe, using land at Elmwood School, and the Irvine property at 135 Hayden Rowe. The committee visited and analyzed data about each site, documenting its evaluation in the site evaluation matrix.

### **What are the main advantages of the Irvine property at 135 Hayden Rowe?**

- The property at 135 Hayden Rowe offers ample room for future expansion, should the need arise in the future to expand due to potential increases in Hopkinton's school aged population. Building at this property would be least disruptive to the existing educational program during construction. The property offers operational benefits in its relative proximity to other school buildings and abutting EMC Park.

### **How will the ESBC address traffic concerns on Hayden Rowe?**

- At the ESBC community workshops, traffic was raised as a concern at each of the evaluated sites. Traffic mitigation will be required as part of developing a school at this site. Traffic counts are planned for mid-May, while high school seniors are still in school. These counts will be the first step in the in depth traffic analysis and mitigation planning that will be part of the schematic design phase. In addition, staggering school start times can be done in a way to optimally manage traffic flow.

### **Are there wetlands on this property?**

- The 135 Hayden Rowe site does include known wetlands on part of the site. Conservation Commission review would be required. Site borings were completed with favorable results. Initial concepts were based on a prior wetlands delineation and analysis is underway to confirm current wetlands boundaries. The site is large enough to accommodate other configurations if necessary.

### **Will Town Meeting have another vote before construction begins?**

- This vote pertains to acquisition of the property only. Following Town Meeting and ballot approval to purchase, the ESBC will move forward with already funded schematic design on the property. At a separate Town Meeting, likely in Fall 2015, a full project scope and budget would be completed and Town Meeting would vote on funding necessary to construct the school.



LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	WETLANDS
	100' BUFFER
	75' BUFFER
	SETBACKS
	CONTOURS