



## **Patriot Partners plan delayed; Hanscom Field moratorium supported**

*By Jason Crotty/Staff Writer*

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Lexington - On the night the 2009 Special Town Meeting ended, Patriot Partners officials told Lexington they will wait until at least fall to reveal their final set of expansion plans. A letter urging a moratorium on development at Hanscom Field, meanwhile, was endorsed.

Town Meeting members approved a motion for Patriot Partners officials to reconvene with the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen, and work with them and Shade Street neighbors on the plans.

The company plans to add two buildings at Lexington Technology Park, adding 380,000 square feet to the property's current size and 510,000 square feet for a parking garage and deck.

Steve Rice, a Patriot Partners representative, said the expansion would be a significant source of new tax revenue. The plan was projected to cover about three times the amount of gross floor area of the existing site, and Patriot Partners officials said last month it would bring in \$1.6 million in new gross annual tax revenue.

Rice said residential concerns about the expansion remained, however, and more time was needed before action was taken.

"We heard a growing sentiment of people that they needed more time. I think it's primarily traffic concerns and other permitted uses," said Rice.

Residents also had concerns over the types of businesses that could be located in the new offices — warehouses, distribution centers or call centers.

"They are uses we would never contemplate ... The economic return would make no sense. But if it makes people feel better, we'd be happy to remove those as possible uses," Rice said.

### **Hanscom Field action**

Town Meeting members approved sending a letter to the governor and other state and federal officials regarding a development and use change at Hanscom Field, which is owned by Massport.

The letter calls for a moratorium on any infrastructure expansion at the civilian Hanscom Field, including the use of federal stimulus funds, until a “comprehensive and sustainable regional multi-modal transportation plan is developed and seeks the assistance of the Governor [now Gov. Deval Patrick], our United States Senators and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in supporting the moratorium.”

Massport wants to develop the site’s East Ramp, adding 400,000 square feet of hangar space; demolish Hangar 24 to make way for a large new jet servicing facility [known as a fixed based operator, or FBO] and aboveground fuel tank; cut 410 trees in Bedford’s Jordan Conservation area to enhance the use of the short runway for large planes; and use \$10 million in federal stimulus funds administered through the Federal Aviation Administration for fixing taxiways