

Flame from Marathon, Greece to Visit, Reside in Hopkinton

February 12, 2008 — HAA (Hopkinton Athletic Association) President Timothy Kilduff, Marathon Committee Chair Dorothy Ferriter and State Senator Karen Spilka visited the Selectmen Tuesday evening to discuss the coming of the flame from Marathon, Greece to Hopkinton to reside in Hopkinton for good, as a part of the twin-city relationship between the two towns.

Mr. Kilduff and Senator Spilka visited Marathon, Greece recently, and brought back photos that showed a stadium of marble steps on the course of the Marathon, and a twin statue like the one currently situated at Weston Nurseries' front lawn that features Stylianos Kyriakides, called *The Spirit of the Marathon*. Mr. Kyriakides was the winner of the 50th Boston Marathon in 1946.

During the dedication of the statue in 2006, Kyriakides' son, Dimitri visited Hopkinton with the candidate and now Mayor of Marathon, Spryro Zagaris, and met with former Governor, Greek American, Michael Dukakis and was feted by the HAA.

Mr. Kilduff said that Mr. Zagaris brought back to his town, the way that Hopkinton deals with the Boston Marathon. The *Flame of the Marathon Run* will be brought to Hopkinton and displayed for the first time on the Sunday before this April's Patriot's Day race. Mr. Kilduff suggested that a police detail could take the flame to Boston from the airport and then to Hopkinton.

One Selectman asked why it wasn't coming to Hopkinton first.

Selectman Brian Herr said, "Because we don't have an airport here —ye#!" alluding to the failed effort to locate an airport in Hopkinton in the 1970's.

Mr. Herr, who has run dozens of Marathons for the benefit of Dana Farber, said, "It sounds like a great opportunity for the town. Are there any expenses?"

"One of our first acts would be to go and look for sponsors," Mr. Kilduff said.

"When you to the Olympic Stadium, they have the flame there. It is a real honor that they asked for it to be in Hopkinton. It is a real credit to the HAA," said Senator Spilka.

The Selectmen voted unanimously in favor of the idea.

