

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 14

On June 3, 2024, Meeting No. 14 of the Southampton Senior Center Building Committee was held in the second floor meeting room in the Southampton Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Janet Cain at 12:32 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

MEMBERS	Janet Cain, COA Chair	Libby Baldwin
	Christina Johnson, COA Director	Chris Fowles, Selectboard Rep.
	Scott Szczebak, Town Administrator	Jerry Hillman
	Dennis Vogel	Darcie Gasperini

TOWN RESIDENTS Ted Palmer

The following is a summary of the discussions held at the meeting.

1. Open Time for Public

- a. No activity.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from Meeting #12 were approved with minor modifications. All members were in favor.
- b. Minutes from Meeting #13 were approved with all in favor.

3. 117-125 College Highway Parcel – Site Visit

- a. The Committee discussed the prior site visit to the 117-125 College Highway parcel with respect to siting the future senior center at this location. Committee members noted that the site visit was helpful to visualize a new senior center on this property and members were optimistic that this property was a good location for the center. Members were in agreement that this parcel appears to be the best option of all of the properties evaluated during the feasibility study since the 89 Clark Street property is no longer viable.
- b. Members noted that there are still concerns about the proximity to Route 10 and access to the site given the roadway curvature. However, siting the facility behind the commercial properties closer to the future rail trail seemed like a promising location.
- c. D. Gasperini provided a preliminary layout showing possible locations for the public safety complex, senior center, housing, commercial properties, and possible recreational areas on the College Highway parcel. Members were in general agreement with the preliminary layout.
- d. The Southampton Housing Authority also toured the property and is interested in using the parcel as well.

- e. D. Gasperini made a motion that the Committee proceed with siting a new senior center on the 117-125 College Highway parcel. J. Hillman seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

4. 117-125 College Highway Parcel – Land Acquisition & Potential Uses

- a. The Town will hold a debt exclusion vote on June 25, 2024 to purchase the College Highway parcel.
- b. The Committee discussed possible locations for curb cuts for access to the property – one for the public safety complex and one for other uses.
- c. The Committee discussed affordable housing uses on the parcel and noted that housing could possibly be located near the future access to the site via Lynn Drive. A discussion was held regarding how to proceed with development of the future layout of the property. A land use planning firm or landscape architect would likely be hired to evaluate the various potential uses and develop a conceptual layout. The first priority is to purchase property, then figure out next steps for the “Town campus.”

5. Senior Center Building Committee – Charge

- a. C. Fowles noted that another person is interested in joining Town building committees. Slots on the Senior Center Building Committee are currently full, but consideration may be made for someone to serve as an Associate member. Alternatively, the Committee charge could be modified to allow for more members.
- b. D. Vogel’s term expires this year. J. Cain is serving on the Building Committee as a liaison from the COA Board. She will be stepping away from the Chair of the COA Board this year and consequently will no longer be on the committee in that capacity; however, she would still like to serve on the Building Committee.
- c. A discussion was held regarding whether or not the Building Committee charge can be re-written to allow for more members. J. Cain will distribute the Committee charge for members to review.
- d. D. Gasperini made a motion that the selectboard revise the senior Center Building Committee charge to increase the number of members from 7 to 9 members. D. Vogel seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

6. Miscellaneous

- a. The Town will be holding discussions with Easthampton regarding the possibility of extending a sanitary sewer from the Easthampton/Southampton Town line along the bike path to the College Highway parcel.

7. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on June 17, 2024 at 9 am.
8. A motion was made to move to executive session. The motion was seconded and passed via a roll call vote with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Submitted by Libby Baldwin, Clerk, Southampton Senior Center Building Committee