

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 16

On June 27, 2024, Meeting No. 16 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 12:33 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	Darcie Gasperini

The following people were absent from the meeting:

Dennis Vogel
Jerry Hillman

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. No action

3. 117-125 College Highway Parcel – Ballot Vote, Land Acquisition, & Site Plan Development

- a. The Committee discussed the Town ballot vote to purchase the College Highway parcel and the next steps in the process.
- b. The Town is currently working on the purchase of the College highway parcel including the title search, wetlands delineations, various inspections, etc. The Town wants to close on the purchase of the property by Sept 30, 2024.
- c. The Selectboard will be responsible for selecting a firm for site plan development of the property. This will occur after the land purchase is finalized.
- d. Donations made by the Senior Center Building Committee, and possibly by affordable housing, may complicate the development of the site plan for the parcel.
- e. During the site plan development, the Town will likely request input from the public and also from various Town committees.
- f. A discussion was held regarding the demographics from the Town ballot vote. Is it possible to determine the demographics of people who voted by age and/or location so we can evaluate the Committee's outreach efforts?

4. Senior Center Building Committee – Charge

- a. In Meeting #14, a motion was passed to revise the Senior Center Building Committee charge to increase the number of members from 7 to 9 members. C. Fowles will evaluate modifying the charge.
- b. The Committee discussed modifying the charge. Ted Palmer will be joining the Committee on July 1st as he will then be the COA Board chair. Janet Cain will no longer be the Chair of the COA Board as of July 1st and will no longer be on the Senior Center Building Committee unless the charge is modified.

5. Fundraising

- a. Fundraising for the Senior Center design and construction was discussed. Fundraising will be coordinated through the Friends of the Southampton Council on Aging.
- b. A discussion was held regarding setting a realistic goal for fundraising.
- c. The Committee discussed making sure that we coordinate our “must haves” with the land use planner for the college Highway parcel, once the planner is hired.

6. Senior Center Funds

- a. A discussion was held regarding the current balance of the funds from the Parsons estate relative to the senior center. S. Szczebak will request this information from the town treasurer.
- b. The Committee may review the investments of funds from estate to make sure that funds are available when they are needed.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. A discussion was held regarding concerns that some seniors have voiced about tax increases that will be coming soon relating to larger projects (public safety complex, senior center, etc.). J Cain will be asking state representatives to vote for a bill that provides relief for seniors for property tax bills. Bill #1930 is anticipated to be voted on in July sometime. Other people should also request that state reps support this bill.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on July 25, 2024 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.

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