

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 26

On March 27, 2025, Meeting No. 26 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 12:30 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

MEMBERS

Janet Cain, Co-Chair	Libby Baldwin
Dennis Vogel, Co-Chair	Chris Fowles, Select Board Rep.
Jerry Hillman	Scott Szczebak, Town Administrator
Kate DiSanto, COA Director	Ted Palmer
Darcie Gasperini	Karle Kushi

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

1. Open Time for Public

- a. No discussion

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from Meeting #25 were approved with one modification, with all members voting in favor.

3. March 22, 2025 Special Town Meeting

- a. The Committee discussed the Special Town Meeting that was held on March 22, 2025. At the Town meeting, the Town Administrator noted that the funding requests for both the Senior Center and Public Safety Complex projects would be combined at the Fall Town meeting. Committee members noted that some participants in the audience did not appear to favor that approach and commented that the 2 projects should be separated.
- b. The Committee noted that the Public Safety Committee did a nice job presenting project background and financial information in the handouts that were distributed at the Town meeting.
- c. Some Town meeting participants voiced concerns about raising taxes for the Public Safety Complex and the Senior Center projects.

4. Potential Town Override Vote

- a. C. Fowles noted that the elementary school may be requesting an override vote at the May 6, 2025 annual Town meeting. The Selectboard needs to determine how to handle this request, along with the funding request for the public safety complex since both funding requests may not be approved. S. Szczebak noted that the Public Safety Complex ballot vote might be postponed.
- b. There will be a public hearing about the Norris School budget on Tues April 1st at the Norris School library. The Selectboard will meet to discuss the budget on April 3rd. The

Public Safety Committee is aware of the school budget request but has not been in discussions yet regarding the impact on the public safety complex project.

- c. The Selectboard will make the final decision regarding what will be presented at the annual Town meeting, and also what will be included on the ballot.
- d. The Selectboard needs to call for a special election by April 15th for an override vote on May 20th.

5. Next Steps

- a. The next steps for the Senior Center project were discussed. The Committee noted that it could move forward with developing the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the architect.
- b. Given the discussions at the March special Town meeting, and the potential school override vote, it is possible that the Senior Center and Public Safety Complex projects may be separated into two project funding requests. The Selectboard and the two Town Committees will need to strategize over the next couple of months on how best to present the projects to the Town.
- c. The land use planning for the College Highway property is still ongoing. There will be additional public meetings towards the end of April, and again in May. The land use planners are requesting that town residents fill out a survey regarding the best use of the College Highway property. Committee members noted that the survey possibly could be advertised better since some people were unaware that it was available. The survey is on the Town website.
- d. The Committee will meet with the land use planners in the next couple of months before proceeding with any Senior Center design concepts for the College Highway parcel.
- e. The Committee received an updated cost for the Senior Center project from PMC.
- f. The Public Safety Committee is forming a Municipal Ballot Question Committee with a goal of reaching out to the community and providing information about the ballot question vote, as well as providing signage regarding the project. S. Szczebak noted that the Office of Campaign and Political Finance requires that a committee be formed if 2 or more people or entities pool resources to support or oppose a particular ballot question.
- g. People on other town committees can serve on the new ballot question committee, but there are restrictions regarding town employees serving on a committee with fundraising responsibilities. A discussion was held regarding whether or not anyone on the Senior Center Building Committee wants to help support this initiative before the ballot vote in May. D. Vogel and J. Cain noted that they are interested in supporting this new committee. A question was raised regarding who can serve on the committee if it is also raising funds for signage, etc. If this new Committee is raising funds, it will need to organize / form the committee, appoint a treasurer, open a bank account, etc., and expenditures need to be reported.

6. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on April 17, 2025 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

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