

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 28

On May 22, 2025, Meeting No. 28 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 12:31 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

MEMBERS

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

PUBLIC

Joanne Griffin

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

1. Open Time for Public

- a. Joanne Griffin attended the meeting to discuss questions pertaining to the Parsons Estate will as it relates to the bequest to the Senior Center. J. Griffin noted that she had heard many comments on Facebook regarding the bequest and how the funds are invested, and she attended the meeting to confirm the accuracy of the comments.
 - The committee noted that many of the comments were based on hearsay. J. Cain reviewed the details of the estate and how it was distributed. The Committee discussed what accounts the estate funds are invested in, and noted that funds are deposited in various accounts for different lengths of time. All funds are currently invested to increase their value over time. J. Griffin noted that her comments were satisfactorily answered.
- b. The Committee and J. Griffin discussed other questions relating to the following:
 - How to provide factual information about the senior center project to voters
 - How to fund the project
 - Why the existing senior center cannot be expanded

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from Meeting #27 were approved with all members voting in favor.

3. Results of Public Safety Complex Ballot Vote as it Relates to the New Senior Center

- a. The Public Safety Complex vote to hire the OPM and architect was defeated at the May 20, 2025 Town election by a wide majority.

- b. This vote was a “trial” for senior center project. The Committee will need to interpret the results of the election as it relates to the future vote to fund the senior center project.
- c. The Committee discussed the possibility of having some sort of marketing initiative to better explain the details of the future senior center. C. Fowles noted that the Public Safety Committee used multiple means of communicating the project details to the public. The Senior Center Building Committee will need to evaluate which communication methods will be effective.
- d. The Committee noted that any misconceptions about the project will need to be addressed before voting on the future funding occurs.

4. Public Forum on College Highway Project

- a. There will be a public forum on May 31, 2025 at Norris Elementary School to review the land use planning concepts for the College Highway property as it relates to the Senior Center, Public Safety complex, and other town uses.

5. Next Steps

- a. The Committee discussed the following as it relates to the next steps for the Senior Center project:
 - When should the senior center project move forward and is it dependent on the public safety complex project next steps?
 - Can we start with developing the RFP for the OPM & architect? The Committee noted that we could develop the RFPs but should not move forward with advertising for these professional services until the public safety committee decides how they will move forward.
 - The Committee noted that messaging for the project will be very important.
 - The Committee noted that they would like to move forward with some aspect of the project in Fall 2025 but likely want to take “baby steps” & proceed wisely.
 - Would both projects be on the same ballot? The public safety committee might take some time to re-design that project so they may not be ready for a vote in the Fall. If that is the case, then the senior center may opt to move forward first.

6. Next Meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm.

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