

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 32

On July 29, 2025, Meeting No. 32 of the Southampton Senior Center Building Committee was held in the second floor conference 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	Scott Szczebak, Town Administrator
	Ted Palmer	Chris Fowles, Selectboard Rep.
	Kate DiSanto, COA Director	Darcie Gasperini (via call-in)

MEMBERS ABSENT Karle Kushi

PUBLIC Cindy Palmer

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 Senior Center Building Committee Meeting #31 were approved with all members voting in favor.

3. Date for Special Town Meeting

- a. S. Szczebak discussed procedures for scheduling a special town meeting (STM) and subsequent special election for a debt exclusion vote for a new senior center. The following dates were agreed upon by the Committee:

- August 5th - Meet with Selectboard to request Special Town Meeting & Special Election
- September 30th - Special Town Meeting
- November 6th - Special Election

J. Cain is not available for the meeting with the Selectboard, but D. Vogel and K. DiSanto can attend. Project costs should be available to discuss at the Selectboard meeting.

- b. The Committee also discussed a possible article for inclusion on the warrant for the STM that would allow a tax exemption or waiver for low income seniors based on what the Town of Easton recently approved. The article would need to be approved at the STM then would need to be acted upon by the Legislature.

4. Update on Educational Quiz for National Senior Center Month (September)

- a. The Committee again discussed the need for educating the public about the existing senior center. J. Cain shared an updated quiz about the existing senior center/senior population that will be posted on social media during September (National Senior Center Month). The Committee reviewed and provided comments on the quiz. K. DiSanto will modify the first part of the quiz to make it more positive. The second part of the quiz will focus on the need for a new senior center. The quiz should be issued by the Council on Aging, not the Building Committee.

5. Other Educational Materials

- a. The Committee briefly discussed the flyer by that was previously prepared by T. Palmer. Committee members to review the flyer prior to the next meeting.
- b. The list of Frequently Asked Questions would be issued in September. The Committee to review and add responses before next meeting.

6. Cost Estimate for Future Senior Center

- a. S. Szczebak asked PM & C to provide a simplified cost estimate for the new senior center (with less detail) by the end of the week.
- b. J. Cain asked Abacus about ways to reduce the cost of the new senior center. She also requested that Abacus remove outdated cost estimate information from the Feasibility Study appendix since the cost estimate has been updated. A page will be added to the report indicating that the cost estimate has been updated and is available on the Town website.

7. Public Information Meetings

- a. The Committee will likely hold information sessions to educate the public on the need for a new senior center. Possibly one meeting will be held before the STM, and another before the Special Town Election. Target dates are as follows:
 - September 6th - Facebook live event, possibly at College Highway property
 - September 10th – Wednesday morning information session during coffee hour at senior center. Session may be recorded.
 - September 18th – Public Information session

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on August 19, 2025 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.

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