Southampton Senior Center Building Committee
Meeting No. 33

On August 19, 2025, Meeting No. 33 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 12:37 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

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

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 #32 were approved with all members voting in favor.

3. **Cost Estimate & Ways to Keep Costs Down**

   a. PM&C provided an updated cost estimate for the new senior center, along with an overall summary of the costs by category. A discussion was held regarding the fact that the building construction cost estimate does not match the warrant so people may be confused. S. Szczebak noted that there are other costs in addition to the building costs that should be included in the total project costs. Total project costs will be available to residents prior to the Town meeting and vote. The Town will also need to figure out interest rates as part of the total project costs.

   b. The Committee discussed developing a separate cover sheet that would include all project costs, as well as the reduction in costs due to the Parsons Estate. This summary would be added in front of PM&C cost estimate.

   c. Abacus provided a summary of various ways to keep project costs down. This information will be communicated to the project architect & Owners Project Manual (OPM) and will also be posted on the town website.

   d. The land use planner for the 0 College Highway property has modified the site plan with a location for a new senior center. This new location will allow for additional project cost savings due to the potential for shared parking, a shared septic system, shared services, etc. S. Szczebak shared preferred plan for the property with the Selectboard.

4. Next Steps for Special Town Meeting & Ballot

a. K. DiSanto & D. Vogel met with the Selectboard to request a Special Town Meeting for funding for a new senior center. The Selectboard approved the request and the Special Town Meeting was set for September 30, 2025.

b. The Selectboard also approved a warrant for a home rule petition but this may be included separately from the Senior Center funding request.

c. The Committee developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions. This list will need to be refined, and answers developed. D. Gasperini, K. Kushi, De. Vogel, & K. DiSanto will get together next week to review the list and develop answers.

5. Social Media & Communication Strategies

a. S. Szczebak noted that the proposed social media quiz about the senior center may not be a good idea because it is too long and most people may just scroll by. The information presented should be shorter and should focus on social services & veterans, rather than the number of existing programs, etc. Maybe the information should be reframed so it is not in the form of a question, but as a value statement.

b. The COA may develop and post information about existing services. K. DiSanto provided a flyer that will be mailed to residents about the senior center services.

c. K. DiSanto will start postings next week for national senior center month.

d. The Committee noted that social media postings need to be about the positive impacts of a new senior center.

e. There will be a Facebook Live event at the 0 College Highway property at a time to be determined, but sometime close to the Town Meeting.

f. Public information sessions:

- will be held to educate the public about the need for a new senior center.
- one session will be held on September 10th during coffee hour at the Senior Center.
- another session will be held at a date to be determined in September.

g. Other communication possibilities were discussed:

- Possibly interview seniors for a video on how the COA helps them
- Ask the Gazette for an interview prior to the election
- The Friend of the Council on Aging could develop signage and mailings prior to the vote
- Committee members could be at the transfer station to discuss the project with residents

6. Miscellaneous

a. S. Szczebak will provide the financial data about the project for posting on the town website. D. Vogel & J. Cain will post information on Facebook.

b. The Town Meeting article was discussed. S. Szczebak explained the article and why legally it needs to be worded in that manner.

7. Next Meeting

a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on September 4, 2025 at 1 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.

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