Southampton Senior Center Building Committee
Meeting No. 37

On November 20, 2025, Meeting No. 37 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 12:30 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

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

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

1. **Open Time for Public**

   a. None

2. **Approval of Minutes**

   a. Minutes from meeting #36 on October 30th were reviewed, discussed, and modified. D. Gasperini made a motion to table the approval and review the updated minutes at the next meeting. The motion was seconded, and it passed with all in favor.

3. **Renovation of Existing Senior Center Space**

   a. A discussion was held regarding the limitations of the existing senior center space and the need to make short-term improvements to alleviate concerns until a new senior center can be constructed. These limitations were outlined in the 2023 Feasibility Study and have only gotten worse. Often multiple events cannot be held at the same time in the existing space. Therefore, the adjacent Selectboard meeting room is used by the senior center to host certain events; however, the room is hard-wired for video capabilities, and those wires cannot be disturbed. Furniture in the room must be moved for each senior center event, then returned to the seating arrangement for Selectboard meetings. This takes a considerable amount of time and effort for senior center staff that can be better spent on other activities.

   b. D. Vogel noted that the senior center limitations are at an inflection point and something needs to be done now to address the issues, even if it is only a temporary measure. There is not enough space in the current senior center to adequately address the needs of the seniors. Attendance has been increasing over the past years and space is tight. In addition, the HVAC system does not function properly and is problematic.

   c. L. Baldwin, K. DiSanto, & D. Vogel met on November 10th at 3:30 pm at the senior center to review existing drawings to determine the feasibility of renovating the space for short-term improvements until a new senior center can be constructed. The possibilities of using the adjacent Selectboard space and hallway were reviewed at that meeting.

d. The Committee discussed possible short-term solutions to alleviate the issues at the senior center including:

- Move existing items from the hallway adjacent to the senior center to another location & move exercise equipment to the hallway.
- Request that the Selectboard move its activities to the second-floor meeting room, and move some senior center functions to the current Selectboard space.
- Modify the sound system in the Selectboard room so the wiring could be moved or make the sound system wireless. This would assist tremendously with setup of senior center functions in that space.
- Transition the Selectboard meeting room so that it is a shared community space.

e. C. Fowles noted that some Selectboard meetings have lots of people attending and a large space is needed. There are also many community groups that use various spaces in Town hall at the same time. Selectboard approval will be required prior to advancing plans for renovation of the space.

f. If the Committee and Selectboard decide to move forward with renovating the space, the first step will include hiring an architect to determine the cost & feasibility of renovations.

g. The Committee reiterated that the modifications presented are intended to be short-term solutions to the current issues faced by the senior center.

h. The next step to proceed with renovations of the existing senior center space is to request input from the Selectboard. See Item 5 below.

4. Update on Parsons estate

a. The current balance of the BankESB account is $2,290,277. There are also funds invested in other accounts. An estate CD is coming due in December.

b. The Committee noted that if the cost to renovate the existing senior center space and adjacent spaces is reasonable, the estate funds could likely be used for this work.

c. L. Baldwin noted that the estate funds should not be used for HVAC improvements unless those improvements are required for the renovations.

d. C. Fowles noted that a major constraint to the current usage of the Selectboard space by the senior center is that the space is hard wired for live recordings. Possibly estate funds could be used for costs to renovate another space in Town Hall for the Selectboard use, if the Town decides to move in that direction.

5. Presentation to Selectboard

a. J. Cain noted that the Selectboard should be updated regarding the status and activities of the Senior Center Building Committee. This discussion should also include potential modifications to the current Selectboard room, and requesting input from the Selectboard.

b. J. Cain, K. DiSanto, and D. Gasperini will draft text to send to the Selectboard to inform them of our activities and potential plans for the Selectboard room. The Committee will review the text before it is sent to the Selectboard.

6. Next Meeting

a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on December 11, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.

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