

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 39

On January 8, 2026, Meeting No. 39 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 1:00 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

MEMBERS

Janet Cain, Co-Chair	Libby Baldwin
Dennis Vogel, Co-Chair	Darcie Gasperini
Ted Palmer	Kate DiSanto, COA Director
Chris Fowles, Select Board Rep.	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karle Kushi, Scott Szczebak

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 #38 were approved with all in favor.

3. Update Select Board on Senior Center Activities

- a. The Senior Center Building Committee previously issued a letter to the Select Board outlining ongoing activities of the Committee and challenges faced by the senior center. These items will be on Selectboard agenda for the January 20, 2026 meeting. If the Committee has a quorum at the Select Board meeting, then it will be considered an official meeting. T. Palmer will request that the COA board also attend the Select Board meeting, as a joint meeting with the Senior Center Building Committee.
- b. A discussion was held regarding how to present information to the Select Board at the January 20th meeting. K. DiSanto will discuss the current challenges of the senior center relating to programming and space limitations. D. Vogel and J. Cain will also discuss challenges of the senior center relating to spatial limitations, and possible use/renovation of the Selectboard room for the senior center.

4. Potential Other Properties for Use as Senior Center

- a. There are two properties in Town that may be considered for a future senior center. These properties were not available during the prior Senior Center Feasibility Study and therefore not previously considered.
 - **Property No. 1** – Members of the Senior Center Building Committee were approached by the owner of a building in town to see if it might be suitable for potential renovation as a senior center, since the owner might be selling the property. Note that the Town was given a “heads up” about the possible sale of the building but was not officially notified.

- D. Vogel, S. Szczebak & K. DiSanto visited the building on December 18, 2026 to make an initial assessment of its suitability for use as a possible senior center. D. Vogel noted that potential renovation of the building into a senior center would be possible but a daunting task. The building does not lend itself to the senior center's needs especially for an expanded kitchen and associated leach field, an elevator, and other senior center needs. The cost to purchase and renovate the space is also potentially prohibitive.
- D. Vogel made a motion that Committee members did explore the option of using this building for a new senior center but determined that the building will not meet the needs of the senior center and the option is not economically feasible to pursue. The motion was seconded & all members except D. Gasperini voted in favor. D. Gasperini abstained from the vote due to a possible conflict of interest. K. DiSanto & D. Vogel will develop a list of drawbacks to purchasing this property.
- The Committee noted that this building is not a good option for the senior center, but other Town entities may want to pursue it for their needs.
- **Property No. 2** – Committee members were notified that another property in town in Town may going up for sale in the future. Committee members discussed the possibility of renovating this building for use as a senior center and agreed that using this building might be a possibility. T. Palmer made a motion that Senior Center Building Committee co-chairs meet with S. Szczebak to discuss pursuing this building as a possible option for a senior center and then meeting with the building owners regarding the feasibility of purchasing or utilizing building for a senior center. D. Vogel seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

5. Another Possible Bequest

- a. Discussion was held regarding a possible bequest that may be made to the Senior Center, separate from the Parsons Estate bequest. The senior center is likely included in a will as a recipient of part of an estate that will be shared by two other organizations. Details are not yet available since the paperwork needs to be finalized and then go through probate.

6. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be a joint meeting with Selectboard on January 20th at 6 pm.
- b. The following Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on January 26, 2026 at 1:00 pm. This meeting was subsequently changed to February 2, 2026 at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm.

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