

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 41

On February 2, 2026, Meeting No. 41 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 12:01 pm. The following people attended the meeting.

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

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

1. Open Time for Public

- a. None

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft minutes from meeting #39 were discussed, and modifications to the minutes were suggested. A motion was made to "table" the approval of the minutes until modifications can be made and reviewed by the Committee. The motion was seconded and approved by all members via a roll call vote.
- b. J. Cain will prepare minutes from Meeting No. 40 (the January 20, 2026 joint meeting with the Select Board) for review and approval by the Committee.

3. Update Selectboard on Senior Center Activities

- a. Members from the Senior Center Building Committee attended a Selectboard meeting on January 20, 2026 to update the Selectboard on the Committee's activities and discuss the ongoing challenges of the senior center. Committee members discussed the possibility of renovating the current first floor conference room (adjacent to the senior center) so the room can be used by the senior center as a temporary measure to alleviate spatial constraints.
- b. The Selectboard seemed to be receptive to modifying the space as an interim measure until a new senior center could be constructed. Modification to the E-Media system for broadcasting Selectboard meetings from the first floor conference room would need to be made before the space could be renovated for the senior center. Modifications would also be required to the second floor conference room so this room could be used for official Town meetings, including Selectboard meetings.
- c. S. Szczebak spoke with E-Media regarding the possibility of renovating the first floor conference room to make it a wireless system. E-Media noted that their income has dropped significantly, which may result in reduced services; therefore, they likely cannot make changes to the wiring of the first floor conference room without significant cost. The changes requested are possible but may cost in the range of \$50,000.

- d. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of just moving the podium in the first floor conference room so the room can more easily be used by the senior center. However, podium cannot be moved without issues. The possibility of using collapsible tables in the room was also discussed.
- e. A discussion was held regarding whether the Town can use the Parsons Estate funds (or just use the interest from the estate) to make the changes necessary in the conference rooms to temporarily improve conditions for the senior center.
- f. C. Fowles made a motion to use the interest accrued from the Parsons Estate to explore possible renovations to the first floor conference room to meet the spatial needs of the senior center, and to revamp the second floor conference room so Town meetings can be held and broadcasted live from this room. The motion was seconded by K. Kushi, and was approved by all members via a roll call vote.
- g. At the February 17, 2026 Selectboard meeting, C. Fowles will discuss the need to contact E-Media to obtain a proposed plan for implementing improvements to the wiring in both the first and second floor conference rooms, as well as receiving a quote for the work.
- h. The COA will continue to look for grants to offset the cost of these improvements.

4. Presentation from Land Planner

- a. On Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026, the Town's land use planner will make a presentation regarding design options for the 0 College Highway property. The presentation will be at 6 pm at the senior center.

5. Potential Other Properties for Use as Senior Center

- a. A discussion was held regarding other properties in town that might be available for a new senior center. No funds are currently available for ongoing maintenance that would be required for a new senior center if it was decided to use one of these properties for that purpose. These limitations may be in effect for several years.
- b. If individual properties are discussed at future meetings, then the discussions may need to be held in executive session.

6. Another Possible Bequest

- a. There is no update regarding the additional bequest that may be made to the senior center.

7. Next Steps

- a. The Committee will wait until after the February 17, 2026 Selectboard meeting to discuss possible renovations to the first floor conference room.
- b. J. Cain reminded Committee members that they need to complete the Code of Ethics form.

8. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on February 26, 2026 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm.

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