

Southampton Senior Center Building Committee Meeting No. 38

On December 11, 2025, Meeting No. 38 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 12:32 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

MEMBERS ABSENT 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 approved with minor modifications with all in favor.
- b. Minutes from meeting #37 on November 20th were approved with all in favor.

3. Update Selectboard on Senior Center Activities

- a. J. Cain, K. DiSanto, and D. Gasperini met to draft a memorandum to the Selectboard to provide an update on the Committee's activities, and inform them of the current challenges of the senior center. The Committee discussed and made modifications to the memorandum. C. Fowles noted that the meeting with the Selectboard should not just be an agenda item. Rather, representatives from the Building Committee should make a presentation to the Selectboard to inform them of the challenges and also to present some possible solutions.
- b. The Committee decided that the memorandum should be submitted to the Selectboard by December 17th for inclusion in the December 23rd meeting agenda. A request should also be made to attend a Selectboard meeting in January 2026 to make a presentation regarding challenges and possible solutions to issues facing the senior center. The COA should be included in this meeting.
- c. The Committee continued to discuss ongoing senior center needs and additional possible solutions.

4. Easthampton Media Contract

- a. The Town's contract with Easthampton Media relating to video services in the Selectboard room is coming due soon. The Committee discussed the need for wireless capabilities in the Selectboard room and suggested that the Town obtain a price for

these services, prior to drawing up a contract with E-Media. The Committee needs to update the Selectboard on the need for wireless capabilities before the contract is executed.

5. Public Education

- a. The Committee discussed what its primary goal should be over the next couple of years since the construction of a new senior center is on hold. Public education about the needs of the existing senior center should be part of the Committee's goal.
- b. The Committee discussed how best to accomplish public education about the senior center needs. Should the Committee continue providing information via social media, or develop some other means of public education? A senior center welcome packet is already available and the Senior Scoop is routinely sent to seniors in the Town. However, the Senior Scoop is likely only read by people that receive it or read it elsewhere so it is not reaching a wide audience. The Committee discussed maybe producing a video about the senior center needs, similar to the public safety complex video. Hosting an occasional open house is another possibility, as well as having community outreach meetings in neighborhoods or various locations in Town.
- c. The Committee and COA need to have clear defined goal about what a public education campaign should accomplish, and what specific information should be provided to the public.

6. Parsons Estate Funds

- a. The Parsons Estate fund has approximately \$80,000 as "liquid" funds that could be used for possible interim needs prior to the construction of a new senior center.
- b. A discussion was held regarding how best to re-invest one of the CDs that is coming due in December. The Committee decided that it is best to invest a portion of the CD in a short-term CD so the funds could be used for possible uses (interim improvements to the center center) that might arise before the long term CD comes due.
- c. The Committee decided to re-invest \$100,000 in a short term (likely 3 month) CD to be used for possible interim uses.

7. Next Meeting

- a. The next Senior Center Building Committee meeting will be held in person at Town Hall on January 8, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

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