

Senior Center Renovation/Expansion Frequently Asked Questions

Why are there so many bathrooms?

State building codes detail the number of bathrooms based upon building usage and square footage.

Will the windows on the south side of the Great Room be blocked?

Based on the proposed layout, the windows would be blocked by the new roofline, however skylights may be added to the Great Room. Skylights and other considerations for natural light coming into the great room are being explored.

Why is there so much space in the front lobby? The lobby provides space for those entering the building and allows participants to get information, congregate before the start and at the end of programs and sit and socialize with a cup of coffee and a snack from the café.

What is the cost? The proposed addition and renovations are estimated to cost 6.6 million dollars.

Will this be a ballot question? It is anticipated that the project will require an override vote.

Will the present library be totally gone? The library will be relocated within the building.

What will happen to programs and services during construction? The construction may be phased to provide the least impact on Senior Center operations; however, alternative locations for programs and services are being investigated. Residents will still be able to access the services of the senior center out of a different location.

When will construction start and how long will it take? The Committee has been working to receive Town approval which would clear the way for a late 2024 start of construction and a possible one year completion of the project.

What is the location of the current septic and is there a need for a bigger septic system with expansion of the building?

The Senior Center passed a Title V Septic Inspection in January and it was determined that the size of the current septic is adequate for the proposed expansion.

Can the building be built to the North side to accommodate lighting/window issues?

The plan was not designed to go to the North so as not to interfere with the current parking lot.

Is there any additional room for more parking spaces? There is the potential to add 20-25 more parking spaces.

What percentage of Hampden residents are using the senior center currently? 56% (1,789 older adults in Hampden per the 2020 census; 1,002 Hampden residents are actively using the senior center)

Will the new Wilbraham Senior Center have an impact on the Hampden Senior Center?

Currently, 7% of the people that use the Hampden Senior Center are from Wilbraham. There is no anticipation that participation numbers will decrease with new senior centers in the area.

Are there enough exits in the new design? Yes, the number of exits is consistent with the building code.

What is the cost of the sprinkler/fire suppression system and what is the square footage number that requires a building to have sprinklers? 7,500 square feet requires a sprinkler system and the cost is roughly \$150,000

What is the width of the hallways in the new design? Hallways are 6 feet wide.

There doesn't appear to be a lot of new activity space gained in the new design. Where will card games be played?

There is a lot of new activity space with Multipurpose 1 & 2 and smaller personal needs spaces. Card and other games that are currently played in the Library will be relocated to a space like Multipurpose 2 in order to allow the Library to be used for its intended purpose.

Has any thought been given to adding solar to the roof? Solar and other "green" options are a part of the discussion.

Does the total cost include a new roof on the existing building? Yes.

Concerns about the location of electrical outlets and USB chargers? Will there be an attempt to eliminate the need for long extension cords across a room? In the areas of new construction there will be an effort to include USB outlets with power outlets and outlets in the floor can be added to alleviate extension cords going to the wall.

There are no visible coat racks on the new plan drawings. Can you explain where people will hang their coats?

The design calls for coat hooks inside each room.

Why do we need a Gift Shop? From February 2024—April 2024, \$700 in donations were collected off the sale of items in our small hallway gift shop/boutique. The having a designated space for a gift shop would provide a revenue generating space throughout the year.