

**Billerica Council on Aging
25 Concord Road, Billerica MA
Special Board Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2022, 5:30 pm**

Present: Jean Patel Bushnell, Dan Burns, Richard Carroll, Phil Doiron, Bill Neeb, John Pellegrino, Mary Riley, and Mike Rosa.

Absent: Barbara Flaherty and Stephen Strykowski

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair Mary Riley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the sick and departed.

Selectmen Mike Rosa shared full printouts of the proposed COA/Recreation Department building plans.

The Chair recognized Director Jean Bushnell who set the framework for the need for the new building. Including:

Enabling seniors to live life to the fullest

Supporting family caregivers

Evolving to meet the needs of the community

Maintain a focus on empowerment, connectivity, and dignity

Ms. Bushnell shared data on the Billerica Population Projections for School Age vs. Seniors 2010 – 2035

The data spawns the vision that younger seniors will spend more time in the Recreation Department, providing a logical path for transition into the Senior Center.

Ms. Bushnell also shared a document comparing square footage for current functions to those in the building plans.

Also presented were the results of a recent survey of seniors wherein 84% of respondents would prefer the mixed generation concept.

Selectman Dan Burns shared the concept that we want separation and commonality. The current plans missed this goal.

COA and the Recreation department need to schedule the use of common program space. This should include each of the following: Gym, Fitness, Technology, Veterans services, Gift Shop, Multipurpose room, and kitchen. The library is not needed for the COA. Social Day Program/Adult Day Care needs direct access to the parking lot, separate outdoor sitting areas, lockable storage for pottery and shared spaces.

Operation of the proposed building will require increased staffing.

Goal is to create an easily accessible Community Center all residents can utilize.

Inclusion of a self-supported restaurant or café would be desired.

A motion was made to state that the Board of Directors of the COA supports the intergenerational community center that contains a Senior Section, a Recreation Section, and Shared common section for both. M/Bill Neeb S/ Phil Doiron Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn by Bill Neeb S/John Pellegrino Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Neeb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Neeb, Recoding Secretary