

Trumbull Community Facilities Building Committee
Senior/Community Center
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated

The purpose of this document is to give consolidated answers to questions that have been frequently brought up regarding the Senior/Community Center project.

We anticipate adding to this list as the project evolves.

For more detailed information please refer to the meeting minutes.

All meetings can also be viewed on TCTV and are open to the public.

What is the charge of the Community Facilities Building Committee from the Town Council?

“The Community Facilities Building Committee is hereby formed to develop options to create up-to-date, useful, and cost-effective spaces for a Senior and Community Center to better serve the community.”

Why is this facility called a Senior/Community Center as opposed to just a Senior Center?

There is a great need in town for meeting spaces and some additional recreation spaces. Using the Senior Center after normal Senior Center hours will be a benefit to many residents by providing spaces for meetings of town boards and commissions and various community groups, as well as recreation programs, including those for seniors who work during the day. The term Community Center simply refers to the idea that this building will not be closed to public use when Senior Center programming ends in the afternoon. It is important to note that the building is designed as a Senior Center, containing all the elements that comprise a modern Senior Center. If the building were not used by the community after normal Senior Center hours, the footprint of the building would be the same.

**What are the issues with the current Senior Center at Priscilla Place?
What will happen to that property if a new facility is built elsewhere?**

The existing facility at Priscilla Place has been recognized as exceeding functional life expectancy, being more than 100 years old. Extensive capital investment and expansion would be required to extend its useful life. The limited parking at the current center restricts programming options. The Town will determine the future use of this property.

What sites were researched for a Senior/Community Center location?

The following town-owned properties were vetted and scored on their suitability for this project:

Wagner Tree Farm (Trumbull Nature & Arts Center property), Long Hill Administration Building, Upper Church Hill Road, Indian Ledge Park, Priscilla Place/Senior Center, 1445 Huntington Turnpike, Hardy Lane, Island Brook Park, Unity Park, Twin Brooks Park, Old Mine Park, and Tashua Knolls Recreation Area. When the town purchased the Grace Church property at 5958 Main Street the committee was asked to explore its suitability.

Why did the town purchase the Grace Church property?

The town became aware that the site was being considered by a major developer who wanted to build multi-unit housing on that property. The town purchased the property in 2024 to control the future use of the property.

If the Senior/Community center is not built at 5958 Main Street what will be done with the property?

If the Senior/Community Center is not built on the Grace Church property, the site will be considered for other uses.

What is the environmental impact of the proposed facility on the river and the watershed as well as on the Valley and Trail? Are there wetlands concerns? What plans are there for water containment?

The proposed facility will actually have a positive environmental impact as it will present an opportunity to clean up the property as well as capture and treat any storm and surface water that would run into the watershed and beyond. There are laws in place to protect areas such as the Valley that are being stringently adhered to. Much attention is being given to any environmental concerns by the architects and site engineers. The next phase of the project will identify the best method for water catchment. The Inland Wetland Agent in the Town's Engineering Department reviewed the project and confirmed that no proposed activity falls within 100 feet of wetlands, which is the regulated area.

What improvements did the Traffic Study recommend?

When in the process is state approval and recommendations sought out?

A professionally conducted Traffic Study was conducted by Tighe & Bond in January 2025. Based on the results of the analysis, it is the professional opinion of Tighe & Bond that the additional traffic expected to be generated by the potential Trumbull Senior/Community Center at 5958 Main Street is not expected to have a significant impact on traffic operations within the study area. The results of the traffic study were presented to the committee at its meeting on February 12, 2025, as well as the Police Commission, which is the town's traffic authority, at its meeting on February 18, 2025. Approvals from the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) will be sought

during the construction document phase; however, informal conversations with OSTA will take place during this next phase of the project.

What is the plan for parking? Will there be sufficient spaces for Senior Center use and Community Center use?

The current plan shows approximately 100 hard fixed parking spaces with potential overflow options for approximately 40-50 more cars. These numbers will be fine-tuned as design plans progress. The fixed spaces will more than accommodate daily use, as current usage and projected usage falls below that number. The overflow spaces will only be used for rare high-capacity events.

What efficiencies are being considered to help with conserving energy costs?

The building is intended as a beacon of sustainability. The envelope of the building and the roof will be well insulated, the windows will be high performing, the skin will be very durable and the mechanical systems will be highly efficient. Just meeting code meets U.S. Green Building LEED Silver standards with many of the proposed efficiencies edging towards Gold standards. Alternative sources of energy will more than likely be used where possible.

Who will manage the Senior/Community Center day-to-day operations, maintenance, and activity coordination?

The Priscilla Place facility will be replaced by the proposed Main Street facility. Once operational, the Director of Human Services and her staff will oversee the complete operational requirements of the Senior Center just as is done today. She works closely with the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation and Director of Building Maintenance, coordinating day to day maintenance service needs. The Parks and Recreation staff will have a small office at the center and will oversee recreational programming.

What will happen to all the trees on the Grace Church property if the Senior/Community Center is built there?

The Town's Tree Warden and two deputy Tree Wardens have evaluated the major trees on the property. They have concluded that overall, the trees are at the end of their lives, showing signs of decay, insect issues, disease, and damage. The major trees on site are beyond salvation by reasonable means, noting that the larger, eldest sugar maple is comprised of included bark which has a tendency to splay open and fall, posing a significant hazard. The plan for the property would include planting a significant number of new trees as well as a significant buffer around areas that abut neighboring properties.

What will happen to the Ash Garden on the Grace Church property?

The Town was informed by the priest of St. Peter's Grace Episcopal Church that it was not the practice of Grace Church to place containers of any sort (urns, caskets, etc.) into the ground; there was not a cemetery at Grace Church. While an ash garden was present on the property, it was closed down over a year ago, according to the standards of the diocese, with the monument, and symbolic ashes/soil, being transported to Monroe where the Grace ash garden now exists. There are no remains or containers present on the Grace property, and there are no active burial grounds on the property.

Who decides whether the Senior/Community Center will be built on the Grace Church property?

At its meeting on February 12, 2025, the Community Facilities Building Committee unanimously approved the conceptual plans for the new facility at the Grace Church property. Other approvals, referrals and reports are needed for the project to move forward. These include the Fire Marshal (who met with the architect to provide feedback and requirements), the Police Commission (done at its February 18, 2025 meeting) and the Planning & Zoning Commission (done at its February 19, 2025 meeting). Next the Board of Finance and Town Council would have to approve funding (bonding) for the project. Finally, if the funding exceeds \$15 million adjusted for inflation, a referendum is required under the Town charter. If the voters approve the bonding at a referendum election, then the project would move forward to construction. The Town will then look to secure federal and state grants to offset a portion of the cost of the project.