

Senior Center Exploration and Expansion Project History

2012-2022

2012 FRCOG conducts a needs assessment of Franklin County COA's in response to the changing demographics in the county and the 2010 Census.

2014 "Aging in West County Communities, Coming Together to Age in Place" Report is completed by the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, Gerontology Institute, John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at University of Massachusetts, Boston with findings presented to the Senior Center Board of Directors. [2014-12 Aging In West County UMass Report.pdf \(the-senior-center.org\)](#)

2014 Senior Center Foundation, Inc. is formed to support The Senior Center.

2015 "The Senior Center Feasibility Study" Report by Jones Whitsett Architects Report is completed and presented to the Senior Center Board and the public. [2015-12 Feasibility Study Report by Jones Whitsett.pdf \(the-senior-center.org\)](#)

2016 Senior Center Board of Directors discusses greater coordination to address needs of the aging population.

2017 Senior Center Expansion Committee is formed with Council on Aging, Select Board, Senior Center Foundation and At-large representatives from each town, Finance Committee representatives added in 2019.

2017-9 Expansion Committee meets monthly.

2017-9 Four Subcommittees: Ownership, Site, Budget, Funding meet to research additional space opportunities for The Senior Center.

2017-9 Appropriations from the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, and Shelburne, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Senior Center Foundation support Consortium expansion research and planning through the Expansion Committee.

2019 The Senior Center Consortium Agreement is amended as Step 1 to address Ownership, or more accurately, Governance to meet the expanded needs of our aging demographic.

2019 "Community Needs Assessment" Report by Philanthropy Resources, Inc. is completed by Philanthropy Resources, Inc. [2020-01-09 Needs Assessment Report.pdf \(the-senior-center.org\)](#)

2020 A consultant, P3, Inc. is hired to bring the work of the subcommittees into perspective with the priority of Ownership/Governance taken as the next necessary step.

2021 The Expansion Committee approves and recommends the creation of The West County Senior Services District; the Covid-19 pandemic slows the process.

2022 Interim step: A 5 member Working Group of 3 Select Board and 2 Expansion Committee representatives, with consultants, P3, Inc. and independent legal counsel, refines and reworks elements of a draft Senior Services District Special Act for the Expansion Committee to present to the three Select Boards for questions and comments.

2022 Interim step: The Expansion Committee accepts Select Board revisions and votes this proposed Special Legislative Act language to send to the three Select Boards for Annual Town Meeting Warrants.