



# The Senior Center

*Ashfield • Buckland • Shelburne*

# Why is it Time to Replace the Consortium With a “Senior Services District”

Developed By the Senior Center Expansion Committee

- ***The Senior Center desperately needs more space.*** The existing Ashfield-Buckland-Shelburne Consortium makes no provision for capital projects. A Senior Services District, established as a new legal entity, would permit funding for the physical expansion of the Center and/or other improvements to meet the needs of a growing senior population.
- ***The District would be funded by all three towns and run by a board appointed by them.*** Annual operating budgets and any improvement costs would require the approval of all three towns at Town Meetings.
- ***Creating a District won't increase taxes.*** As with the Consortium, public and private donations and grants will augment regular town assessments for operating and capital costs. Future expense proposals will go to the towns' Town Meetings for a vote and each town will decide how to pay its portion.
- ***The District decision isn't a done deal.*** Because the pandemic made public hearings impossible, it was decided to delay any Town Meeting votes until the three towns' residents have time to ask questions and provide adequate community input.
- ***Ashfield is not out of the picture.*** In a recent letter, Ashfield's town leaders said they've always supported The Senior Center and remain open to seeking “a flexible and cost-effective model for providing services that will benefit all member towns.” That is at the heart of the District idea and the Expansion Project.

**For more information, please see The Senior Center website at [the-senior-center.org](http://the-senior-center.org)**

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