

EXPANSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Senior Center Expansion Project Updates

By: Sylvia Smith, Chair of the Expansion Committee and Dan Pallotta, P-Three Project Consultant

Community outreach was the mission of the Expansion Committee this spring. In partnership with the Senior Center Foundation postcards (https://the-senior-center.org/files/4-15-21_Senior_Services_District_Postcard.pdf) were mailed to over 3,000 residences and businesses in Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne and more than 1,000 flyers (https://the-senior-center.org/files/4-15-21_Senior_Services_District_FAQ_Flyer.pdf) were distributed through the Senior Center's newsletter and at Annual Town Meetings and transfer stations. **We invite you to share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.**

The flyers were also available at Annual Town Meetings and used as the Expansion Committee report by each town's Council on Aging chairs: Doug Field (Ashfield), Ellen Eller (Buckland) and Penny Spearance (Shelburne).

Committee members report increased awareness among the public and considerable positive feedback. **Of course, more details regarding Senior Services District structure and purpose will be shared in public forums in the coming months. These will provide the opportunity for questions, answers and community input before bringing a concrete proposal to town meetings for consideration.**

NEXT STEPS? A joint meeting of the Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne Selectboards has been a traditional activity in the fall (except last year). The boards in conjunction with committee leadership would review the status of the project and offer an appropriate direction to address The Senior Center's programming and space needs for the growing numbers and needs of seniors not only in our member towns, but in the West County service area. Selectboard meetings are open to the public. **As usual, stay tuned.....**