



READING CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING COMMITTEE
RECALC

SELECT BOARD UPDATE
MARCH 22, 2022

THE CHARGE OF RECALC IS TO EXPLORE THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND INITIATE PLANNING FOR A POTENTIAL NEW SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER IN TOWN THAT WILL FOCUS ON RESIDENTS AGED 60+ AND POSSIBLY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THE COMMUNITY.

RECALC Milestones

- **Nov. 2021** - Select Board creates and appoints 7 member Ad-Hoc Committee
- **Dec. 2021** – Committee plans bi-monthly meetings including joint meetings with the Council on Aging (COA).
- **Jan. 2022** – Review of project parameters; Committee feedback
- **Feb. 2022** – Public Services Department hires consultant - UMASS Gerontology Institute (2021 Capital Funds) to lead community engagement.
- **March 2022** – Site Visits planned to area centers; joint meeting with COA/UMASS Consultant team to review community outreach plan
- **April 6, 2022** – Two public forums planned PSC – 1:00 p.m.; RPL – 6:00 p.m.



Why Plan for A Center for Active Living (RECAL)?

- **Vision** – A far reaching vision for the future is needed to plan for the needs of the community.
- **Needs – What are the needs of the community?**
- **Pleasant Street Center has outlived its' useful life** (Needs Assessment, Umass Gerontology Institute, 2017)
- **Demographic Trends** - Growing overall population with 27% residents are 60+ years
- **Impact on Service Delivery** - A dedicated staff having difficulty meeting the demand of community
- **Limited Capacity** - Some residents leave town for Services



COMPREHENSIVE
PROCESS OF:

BENCHMARKING
PEER
COMMUNITIES

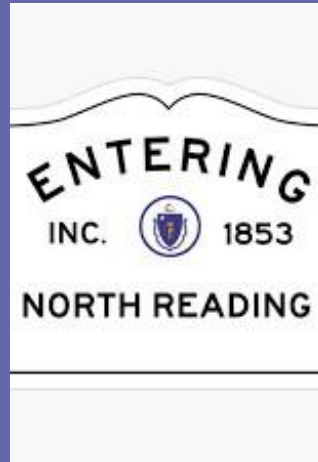
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COMMUNITY INPUT



Benchmarking

- Prepared extensive survey to be used on field visits to various Senior and Community centers in Massachusetts
- Selected visits to over **21** peer communities in the next four weeks
- Data to be collected will include facility space specifications, programs/activities offered, and limitations, if any, from adequacy of space



HOW DO WE COMPARE?



- Communities were chosen based on following criteria:
- Have recently completed a similar community process
- Are in the process of doing so are a mix of Community Centers and Senior Centers
- Comparable sized communities in geographic proximity to Reading

COMMUNITY INPUT

Take Our Survey

- Community wide outreach via
 - Surveys
 - Focus Groups
 - Public Forums

NEXT STEPS

- Collect and analyze community input
Including town-wide community survey.
- Present a Vision.
- Recommend Senior vs.
Multigenerational Center
- Final recommendations to Select Board
- Town Meeting article funding feasibility
study (e.g., type of facility, size, potential
locations, plans, and cost estimates).



The opportunity is here