

October 17, 2011

To the members of the 2020 committee,

Thank you for your commitment to Acton citizens to make our “home town” full of “community” in the broad sense and to make Acton remain the great place it is today far into the future.

Many of you are probably not familiar with the work that the Council on Aging does at the Senior Center but the easiest way to understand it is to think of the Senior Center as another school – but one where attendance is not mandatory! The programs at both the schools and the Senior Center are structured to serve the needs of specific age groups in town. However, after hours all of these facilities are available to anyone in the town for multiple purposes.

The services the Senior Center staff provide are outstanding. Unfortunately, the Senior Center is currently limited in both the type and size of programs it can offer. There is no one to greet people at the front door, lack of private meeting and health clinic space, inadequate parking and the inability to have multiple activities offered at the same time to name a few. Meals are an important function at any Senior Center, but due to the existing septic system we are limited as to what types of meals we provide by the Board of Health.

Seniors are the fastest growing demographic group in town. Currently seniors comprise 16.7% of Acton’s total population. Providing a center that serves their needs will increase the likelihood that they will stay in town which helps everyone.

Our obligation is to identify the unmet needs and interests of all seniors – including limited English speaking populations, those with disabilities, those confined to home and other needs that sometimes are not so obvious. In order to continue to provide services that are top notch we need a building that is better designed for its purpose. Some of these needs are; increased private office space, several activity rooms, a designated fitness room, a large commercial kitchen with a dining area to seat a minimum of 100 people, ample parking and a health office for wellness clinics and private consultations. If this facility is created, it can also serve many other unmet needs for the larger community in the afternoons, evenings and weekends.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tallone

Council on Aging Board Chair

