



UPDATE BY THE SENIOR CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen

January 4, 2016

Charge from the Board of Selectmen to the Senior Center Study Committee

The Board of Selectmen does hereby establish a Senior Center Study Committee to evaluate options for the relocation or renovation of the Senior Center. The Committee shall determine future programmatic needs of the Senior Center and the corresponding space needs and evaluate the feasibility of renovating the current center, leasing a facility, or building a new building on Town or privately owned land.

Update

- ▣ In late September, the SCSC sought clarification regarding the committee's charge and whether it should focus on a Senior Center only approach or whether to include aspects of a community center as well
 - The Selectmen voted to support the senior center only approach
- ▣ At the same time, we indicated to the Selectmen that we had reached several other decisions:
 - The SCSC has voted to pursue a new building to include the following Human Services: a Senior Center, the Nursing Service, the Veteran's Service Officer and the Community Resource Coordinator
 - We have voted to go forward with the Arlington St. property as the site for this building
 - The SCSC expects to be recommending to the Selectmen that they request design funds at April's annual Town Meeting

Why are We Here?

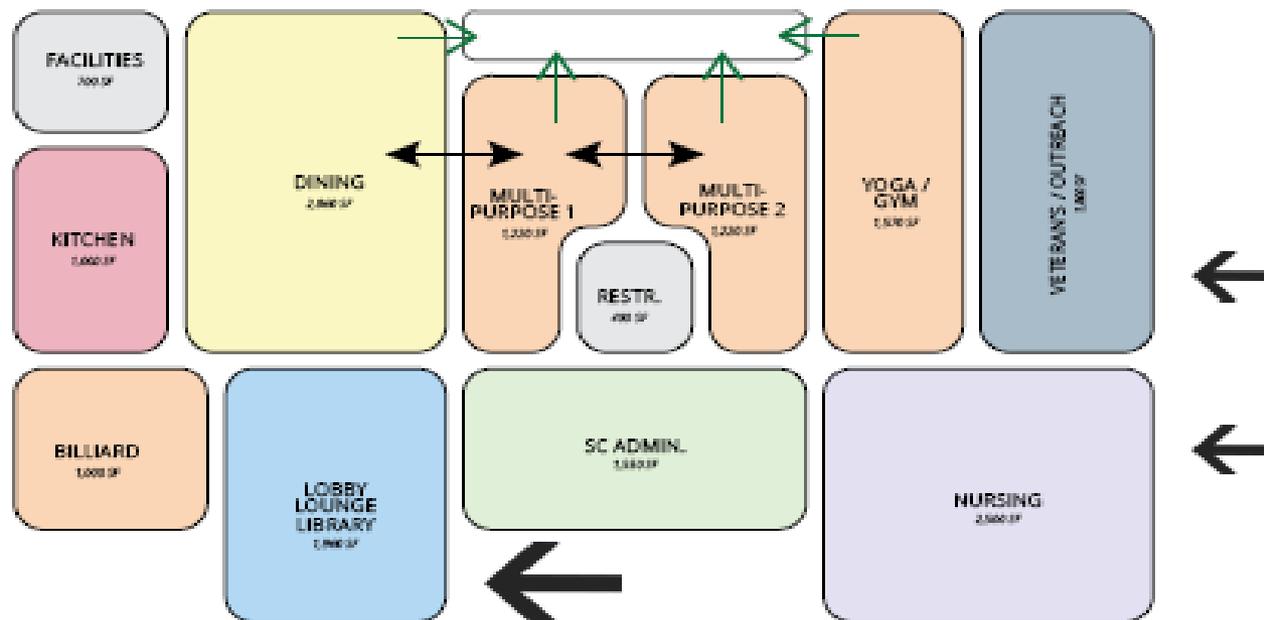
- ▣ We want the Selectmen to affirm our support for the concept of a Senior Center that will also house the other human services departments
- ▣ We want the Selectmen to affirm our decision to focus on the Arlington St. site as the location for this building
- ▣ We want the Selectmen to support the Town Manager's request for \$300,000 in design money at April Town Meeting
- ▣ Need this support now as we are working on public outreach and have a public forum planned for January 13, 2015

Reasons for Integrating Human Services Departments

- ▣ Recommendation of the Town Manager re organizational structure
- ▣ Greater coordination of activities and services to meet needs of those in need
 - Many coming to the senior center often need services provided by other social services departments
 - Efficiencies in providing services
- ▣ Adds about 4,000 sq ft to total building
- ▣ Broader support from the community

Acton Senior Center Study

Adjacency Diagrams
15-11-09
1524 Acton Senior Center Study



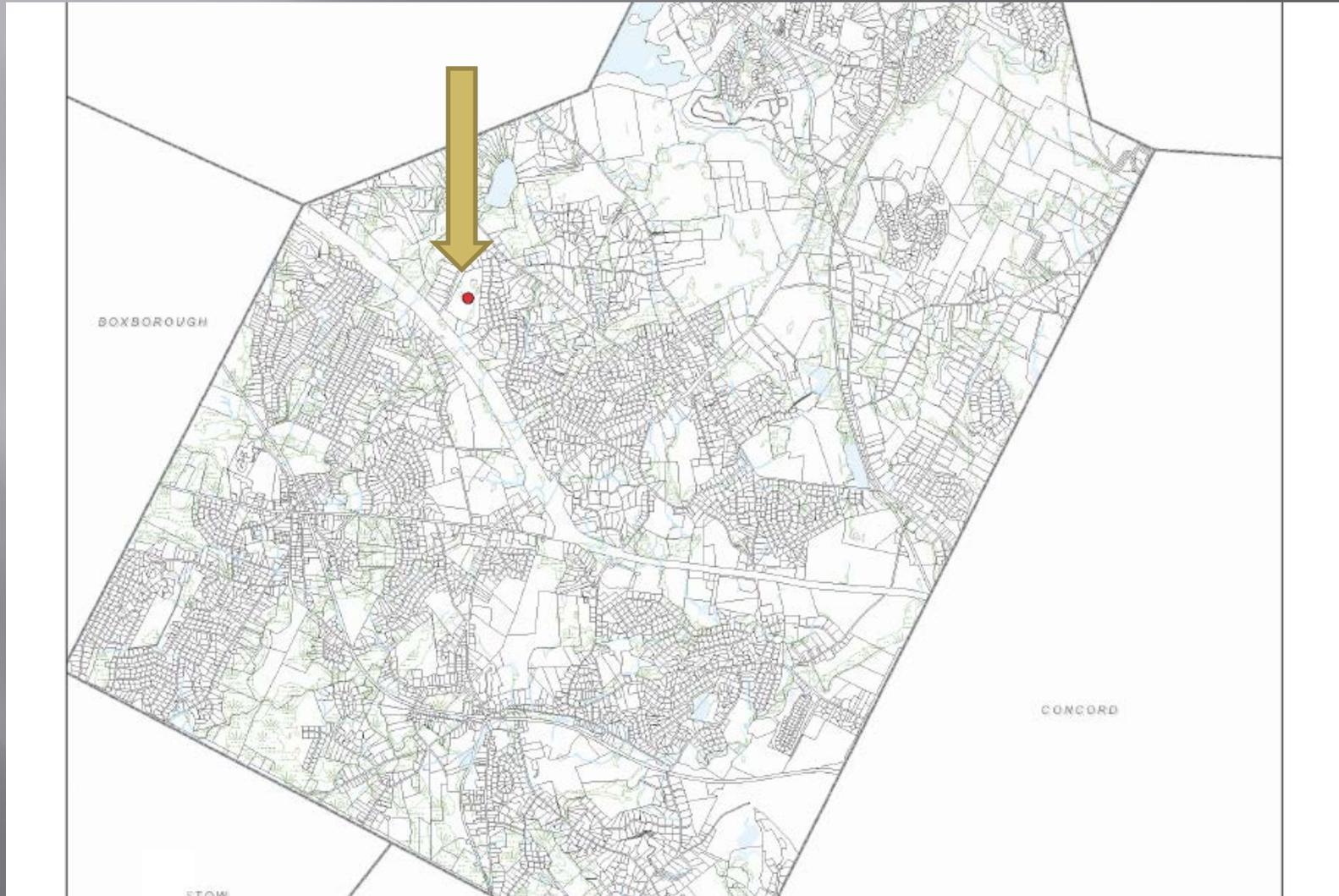
Version 2

TOTAL SF DIAGRAMED: 17,780

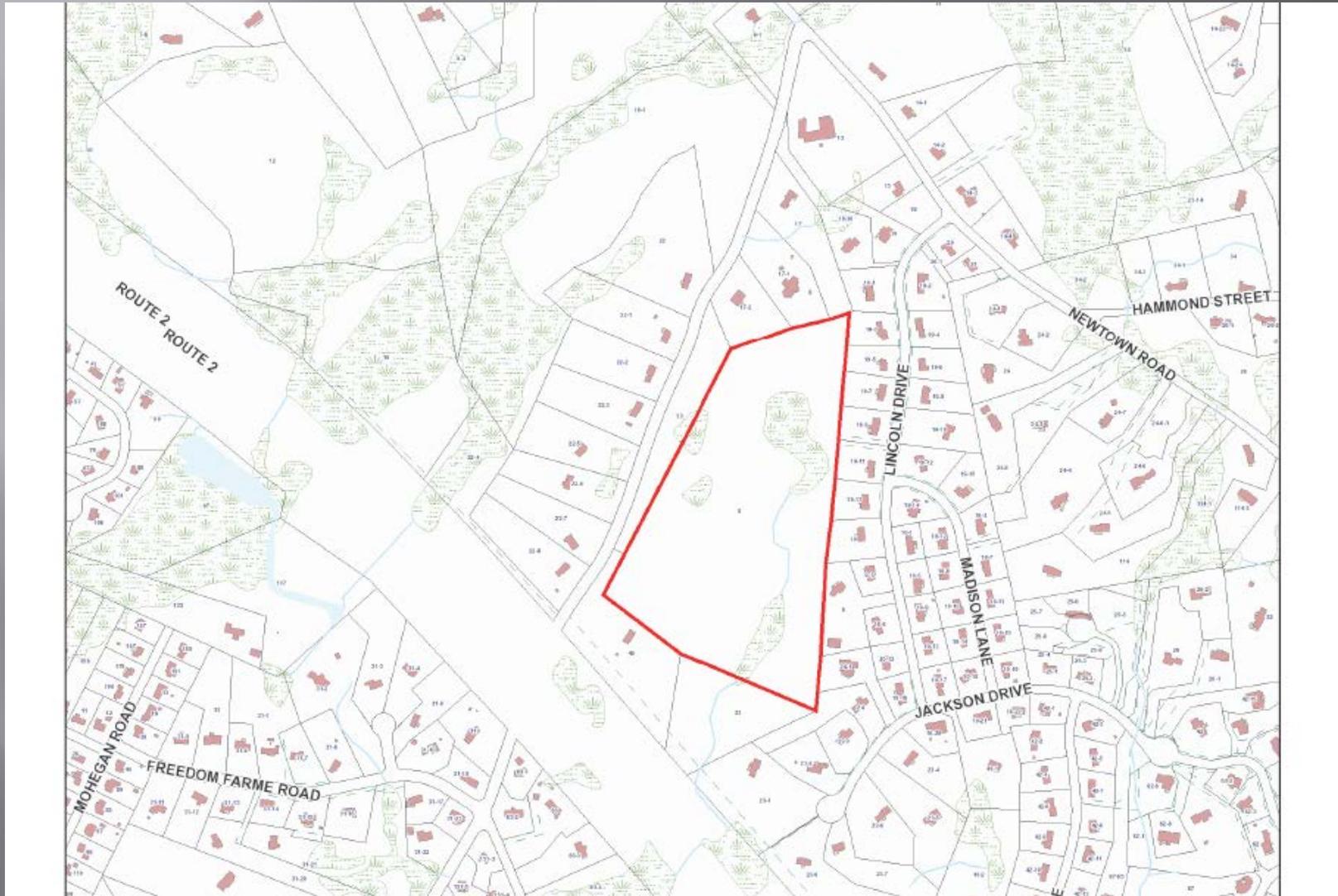
Why Arlington Street?

- ▣ SCSC examined several different sites: NARA, Route 27 (Walker), Arlington St.
 - NARA too small, remote
 - Rt. 27 (Walker) too congested, traffic issues, not owned yet, BoS indicated it wanted to form a reuse committee
 - Arlington St works, sufficient size, central location – mileage counts; had been a preferred location before, but not controlled by the town at that time
- ▣ Also evaluated lease option – lack of control a big issue

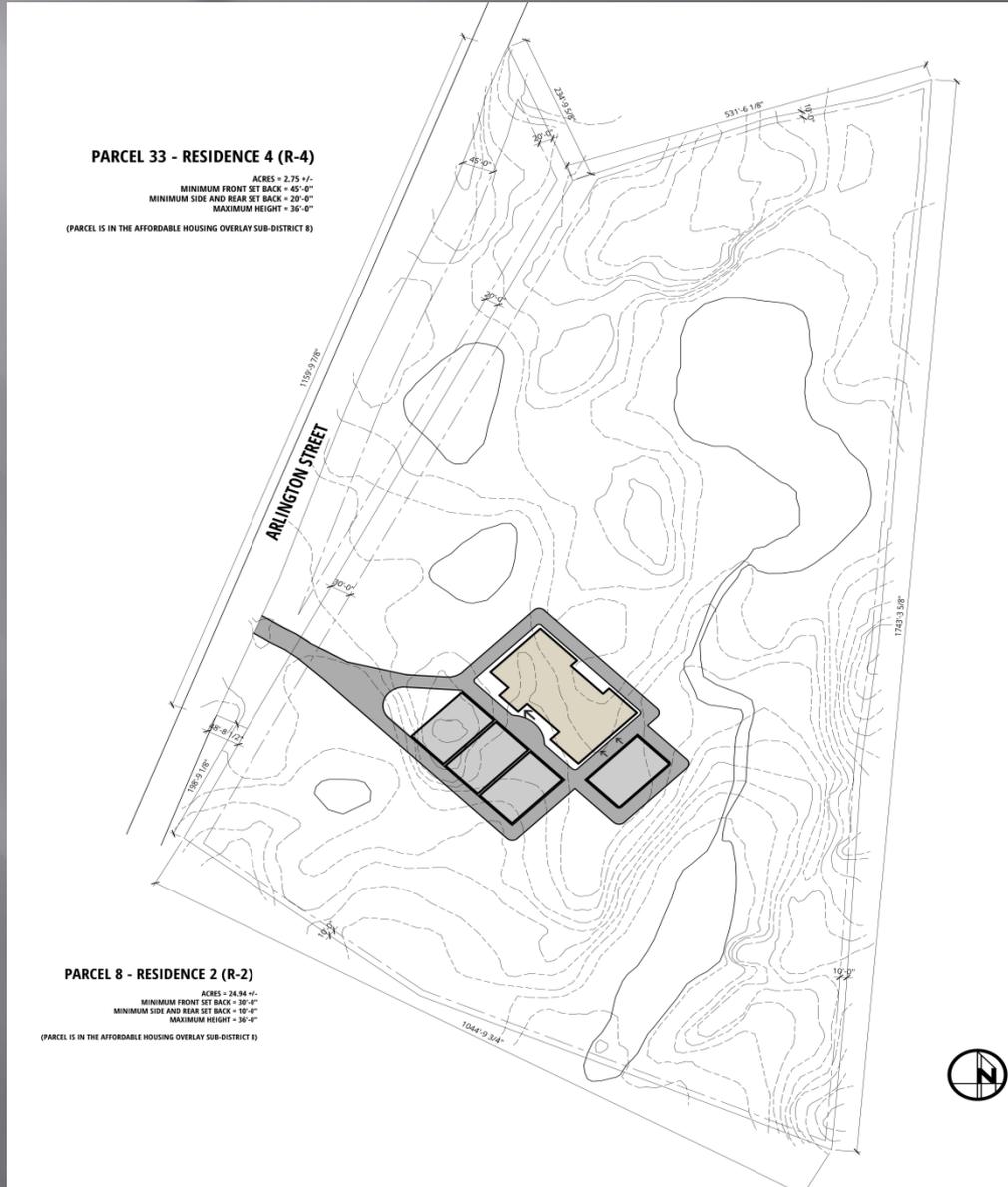
Arlington St. Location



Arlington St. Location



Arlington St. Location



Why Does Acton Need a New Senior Center?

- ▣ Constraints posed by existing Senior Center:
 - Current size is 5,000 sq ft – inadequate and poor design
 - Limited parking especially in mornings
 - Limited space for exercise, other programs
 - ▣ Programs oversubscribed
 - ▣ Demand continues to increase
 - Limited private meeting space
 - ▣ E.g., wellness clinics in dining room
 - Need for shelter, emergency use
- ▣ Senior population growing rapidly as is demand for senior services
- ▣ Town manager's budget request is for \$300,000 for full design money

Where Do We Go From Here?

- ▣ If the Selectmen support this plan, then SCSC is planning a public forum for January 13th to explain proposal, elicit feedback
- ▣ Town Meeting vote in April on design funding
- ▣ With approval will move to full design
- ▣ Designer selection process and BoS consider forming building committee
- ▣ Construction funding vote would likely be April 2017