

**From:** [Jim Purdy](#)  
**To:** [Daphne Politis](#); [Acton 2020 Committee](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Community/Senior Center  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 07, 2011 1:22:05 PM

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One way of combining functions with a degree of separation between seniors and others is to design it with two wings that, while not exclusive, can specialize in the respective user groups. A central portion can hold the kitchen, offices, and other such functions. (This is sort of like the hiker facility in Quarry Gap PA that has separate shelters for snorers and non-snorers, with a breezeway in between for cooking and eating.)

Jim Purdy AICP  
Vice President, Planning  
the Collaborative, Inc.  
122 South Street  
Boston MA 02111  
617-338-0018 x18  
617-338-4228 fax  
617-791-3537 mobile  
[jpurdy@thecollaborative.com](mailto:jpurdy@thecollaborative.com)  
the Collaborative is a certified Minority Business Enterprise

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**From:** Daphne Politis [mailto:[daphne@community-circle.com](mailto:daphne@community-circle.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 07, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Acton Steering Committee  
**Cc:** Jim Purdy  
**Subject:** Community/Senior Center

Dear All,

As promised, I spoke to Pam Harding, Planner in Holden, MA about their senior center, and she told me the following:

"Proponents for the Senior Center were against community use of the building because of conflicting needs of age groups. Though the Senior Center is utilized ( mostly after hours) as you know for a majority of our community meetings, community viewing of movies, rain dates for music venues, as an emergency shelter, and administration of vaccinations on a community wide basis.

The Senior Center does get utilized a lot during the day by our seniors, but I think that has a lot to do with the variety of activities scheduled by the Senior Center Coordinator. "

She added (in a follow up telephone conversation):

The building is very busy during the evening and weekends by the non-senior community, but there is additional unmet need for daytime space by these non-seniors. Some people are not pleased by the lack of additional community space. Currently the seniors do not want to give up any of their daytime usage and are against sharing the building during the daytime,

especially with toddlers and teens. The facility is sometimes a daytime "raindate location" for toddler activities, but this is an exception.

She thinks it would have worked better (and would have better met community-wide needs) if the facility:

- was called a community center
- had two large community rooms, each with separate entrances and acoustic separation (perhaps with the kitchen in between so that they both have access to the kitchen) so that the seniors could use their community room every day while the other room could be available for scheduling by the community at large (including seniors if they needed more space for additional programming).

Still trying to think of a better (more clever and catchy) name for a joint facility :). Pam thinks that 'community center' is the most direct way of expressing the point. Maybe she is right.

Daphne

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Daphne Politis, Principal  
Community Circle  
Six Dover Lane  
Lexington, MA 02421  
781 - 862 - 1780 (phone)  
781 - 240 - 0258 (fax)  
781 - 820 - 0873 (cell)  
[daphne@community-circle.com](mailto:daphne@community-circle.com)

The circle is an inclusive shape, one that implies fairness and invites participation...  
It is the shape of a connected community  
....it is also used to indicate and define "place."