

## Options for Community Facilities

Based on feedback from the first public outreach session, NRPC and the Planning Commission identified several potential options for community facilities in the Old Town Hall, New Town Hall, and recreation opportunities elsewhere in Town. To assist today's conversation, below is a description of these proposed uses, with basic information on cost, grant availability, and potential challenges.

### Information on Pricing

*Each option includes a general estimate of cost- ranging from \$-\$\$\$\$. These estimates are intended only to give a general sense of cost. Specific project costs can vary widely depending on goals, site conditions, and grant requirements.*

- \$~ Under \$25,000
- \$\$~ \$20,000-\$100,000
- \$\$\$~ \$100,000-\$500,000
- \$\$\$\$~ More than \$500,000

## Old Town Hall

### Welcome Center

*Description:* A welcome center with restroom, and space to showcase local business and work by local artists. The center could also provide community resources, such as a community tool shed, free donation table, or bicycle repair station.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Construction costs to update/restore the building. If historical preservation grants were used, this may increase the cost for restoration to meet historic preservation standards. Ongoing costs may include maintenance and potentially staffing. Three-season use may limit heating costs.

*Grant Availability:* *Some grants available.* Many grants are available for historical preservation which will require preservation to historic standards. Some community facilities grants may be applicable. Most require 50% of the project funds to be fundraised/from town.

*Potential Challenges:* Staffing welcome center if needed. The existing tank wastewater system may present an issue depending on traffic through the center.

### New Library Space

*Description:* A new or expanded library space that could meet the standards for public libraries such as being open for 14 hours a week, accessibility, and participation in the interlibrary loan system.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Construction costs to update/restore the building and make it accessible. Ongoing costs for staffing and materials.

*Grant Availability:* Some grants available. Many grants are available for historical preservation which will require preservation to historic standards. A few community facilities grants may apply. Most require 50% of project funds to be fundraised/from town.

*Potential Challenges:* Coordination with the existing library may be necessary. Ownership would need to remain with the Town to continue use of the existing wastewater system. Staffing could be a challenge.

## WiFi Hotspot

*Description:* Technology to expand WiFi signal to parking lot & seating areas in and outside of the building.

*Typical Cost:* \$. Costs may be less if there is existing equipment in the library that can be repurposed. Ongoing costs are relatively inexpensive, such as internet subscription costs.

*Grant Availability:* None currently available.

*Potential Challenges:* Lack of grant funding, potential for system to break or face technological issues in the future.

## New Town Hall

### Multipurpose Community Center/Senior Center

*Description:* Open space set-up for community events. Depending on layout, this could be one large room (current gym) or include several of the smaller rooms in the facility as well. This could also include use as a senior center.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Total cost would depend on whether or not major changes to the interior space were made as part of the conversion. The existing set-up of facilities may be adequate, which would limit costs for furnishings and minor interior renovations (e.g. repainting, signage).

*Grant Availability:* Limited grants available. Community facilities grants may be available for more significant renovations. 50-60% grant match required.

*Potential Challenges:* Management of community space, potential issues with kitchen/bathroom facilities that may need additional maintenance.

### Childcare Center

*Description:* Designated childcare center meeting licensing requirements from DCF, which would be a locked facility not available for other uses.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Construction would be required to ensure that the building meets the DCF licensing requirements.

*Grant Availability: Limited grants available.* Several community facilities grants are available for construction, for no more than 80% of total costs. Little to no funding for maintenance and operation is available.

*Potential Challenges:* A childcare facility would require a designated area of the facility; the Town would likely need to find a partner to run the facility.

## Affordable Apartments

*Description:* 2-3 apartments which could be used for teachers etc.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$\$\$\$. The average cost per unit for new housing in Vermont is high, driven by demand in nearby Chittenden County.

*Grant Availability: Some grants are available.* Many grants require partnership with housing developers. Tax credits are also available for housing developers. Grants generally do not cover more than 30-40% of costs.

*Potential Challenges:* Significant changes to water/wastewater systems may be required. Partnership with a housing developer would be necessary, project size may present a challenge to finding a partner as housing developers often prefer larger projects.

## Battery Storage System

*Description:* Large lithium-ion batteries, often stored in converted shipping containers or similar. The batteries can be used in place of a traditional generator, and electricity can be sold back to the electric utility to reduce grid peaks.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$\$. The price may depend on the size of the system.

*Grant Availability: Limited grants available.* Some grant funds may be available through partnerships with energy developers.

*Potential Challenges:* Town would need to find a developer to partner with. Battery storage systems can require some additional training of local Fire Department.

## Community and Recreation

### Concert Stage

*Description:* Concert stage in a park, which could be a “concert box” which can be closed while not in use.

*Typical Cost:* \$\$

*Grant Availability:* Some grants available. Several smaller community grants and private funding opportunities may be applicable. Typically, 50% of greater match is required.

## Walking Path

*Description:* Additional walking paths in the Town Park that could connect to the path around the school via a crosswalk.

*Typical Cost:* \$-\$\$\$. Volunteer labor can be used to reduce project costs.

*Grant Availability:* Limited grants available. Some trail building grants are available, although they tend to be extremely competitive. Town may be able to coordinate with the youth conservation corps or other similar organizations.

*Potential Challenges:* Coordination of volunteer efforts and planning for maintenance.

## Fitness Equipment

*Description:* Outdoor fitness equipment which could be located in the park or along the fitness trail.

*Typical Cost:* \$-\$\$

*Grant Availability:* Limited grants available. Mainly small private grants.

*Potential Challenges:* Planning for maintenance.