



Town of Colchester

NEW SENIOR CENTER



In 1978, Colchester's earliest senior center began as an initiative of the Commission on Aging and was housed in the former NuNu's restaurant which at that time was the Colchester Grange. Through the generosity of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, the current building, formerly the Arts and Science Department of Bacon Academy, was leased to the town for many years for a dollar a year for use as a senior center.

For the last forty years, the Center has seen many changes as well as tremendous growth in population, diversity, outreach, services and programming; and, more importantly, the improvement in the quality of the lives of Colchester's seniors.

Over the years, there were leadership changes, committees, subcommittees, task groups, open forums, and work groups. In 2017, a decision was made to purchase a property at Louis Lane for \$90,000. The money came from the Town's general fund balance, with no new taxpayer dollars and no increase to the mill rate.

In October 2019, a Senior Center Building Committee was formed. They were "charged to include: a building, related infrastructure and outdoor space that will provide for a senior center for senior services now, and in the future for seniors of all ages." Since then, the Committee has met twice a month to implement that charge. In 2020, the Committee contracted with architectural firm Silver Petrucelli & Associates, and an owners' project manager and cost estimator, Construction Solutions Group, to provide professional services.

A new senior center aligns with many of the senior services strategic plan goals including: strengthening community partnerships, attracting younger seniors, expanding programs and services designed to promote independence, health, wellness and the quality of life of Colchester seniors.