



# Recommend Appropriating Free Cash for Maynard Senior Center

## **MOTION:**

Move to approve Article 4, as printed in the warrant ,  
except the words: "to do or act thereon."

## **PURPOSE:**

To allocate from Free Cash up to \$120,000 per fiscal year  
for a minimum of five (5) years  
to lease a larger space, allowing the relocation of  
the senior center to meet growing program demand.

# MAYNARD SENIOR CENTER FOCUS GROUP

Citizen's Petition Fall Town Meeting  
October 2023

# History

- ▶ 2013 Community Center Study resulted in:
  - Town hiring full time COA Director
  - Creation of an interim Senior Center located within golf course clubhouse

# Seniors in Maynard – 2023

- ▶ Provided by: Office of the Town Clerk
- ▶ Definition: Per COA guidelines, Age 60 and over
- ▶ As of August 25:
  - 3083 Senior Residents
  - 30% of population (3083/10327)
  - 37% of registered voters (3083/8423)

# Current Situation- 2023

- ▶ Senior population still fastest growing segment
- ▶ Programming and communication success led by full time COA Director has created demand exceeding current space
- ▶ Senior needs (at 30% of town population) have been under-represented
- ▶ Maynard Senior Center Focus Group (MSCFG) formed in 2022 to strengthen advocacy

# Current Senior Center

- ▶ Net present space available for activities – 1572 sq ft (1932 total–360 storage/office), single room with center support post, movable room divider.
- ▶ To accommodate programming needs, COA stages activities at Elks, Library, Boys and Girls Club plus limited use of Golf course clubhouse



# Potential Senior Center Spaces Evaluated

1. ArtSpace/Fowler School (61–63 Summer St.)
2. Mill & Main Bldg. 6
3. Mill & Main, Bldg. 12
4. Paper Store, Nason St.
5. Maynard Crossing
6. Emerson Health/Former Walgreen's
7. Imago School
8. 63 Great Road/Business condos
9. Royal Beijing School (Former DEC Bldg PowderMill Road)
10. Assabet Valley Boys & Girls Club
11. Regionalization w/Acton or Stow

**Message – Space opportunities rapidly disappearing**

# Citizens Petition – Why?

- ▶ To make senior needs visible and part of the discussion as the town faces difficult financial pressures on multiple issues
- ▶ Extremely limited availability of spaces meeting criteria of size, location, parking and access
- ▶ Securing space while still available needs financial commitment now

# Citizens Petition – Basis

- ▶ Up to \$120,000 per year for 5 years
- ▶ Amount based on 5 year lease offer from Mill & Main for 5160 sq foot space which provides:
  - ▶ Space for expanded services and programs.
  - ▶ Room for concurrent classes, activities, and professional services.
  - ▶ Solution to equipment and supply storage issues.
  - ▶ On-site access to durable medical equipment closet.
  - ▶ Safer accessibility and better van access.
  - ▶ Access to shared fitness room, cafeteria, courtyard.
  - ▶ Centralized location

# Petition Objectives

- ▶ Commit to leased space to meet growing current needs
- ▶ Funding for short term lease allows planning for permanent solution expected from contracted study *“Aging in Maynard: A Community Needs Assessment”* scheduled for late 2024 (UMASS Boston Gerontology Institute)
- ▶ **Securing space while still available needs financial commitment now**

# Summary

- ▶ Petition approval funds short term lease for a larger space to meet demand for increased programming and services for growing senior population
- ▶ Support Our Seniors – Vote Yes