

## Southbury Community Center Update

**January 11, 2018** 

#### **Exploratory Committee**

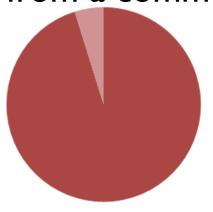
The Southbury Community Center Exploratory Committee was commissioned to investigate the possible development of a Community Center in Southbury.

Jim O'Rourke, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Waterbury YMCA, agreed to facilitate and provide resources to the Exploratory Committee and three sub-committees:

- Community Needs Assessment
- Feasibility and Capacity
- Collaboration and Community Models

#### **Community Needs Assessment**

- Overall 770 respondents
- ▶ 726 (94.5%) from Southbury (44 other)
- ▶ Female 541 (70.6%) Male 225 (29.4%)
- ▶ Age 35-49 (55.5%) 50-64 (23.0%)
- # of Respondents who feel Southbury would benefit from a community center



652 agree or strongly agree (85.3%)

33 disagree or strongly disagree (4.3%)

#### Overall Themes from "Agree" Comments



- Safe and healthy environment for youth and teens
- A feeling of community
- Allow for locally based programs versus traveling to other communities
- Central location for community group and activities
- Community center has been needed for years

#### Top Themes from "Disagree"

(Note: small minority of respondents)

- Overall enough activities in Southbury currently
- Not a good time economically & no additional tax increase
- Should focus on fixing and improving current facilities and programs
- Lack of utilization and fear of sustainability

#### **Top Amenities**

- Teen Activity Center
- Indoor Pool
- Gymnasium
- Performing Arts Center
- Fitness Center





#### **Top Activities**

- After School Activities for Teens
- Performing and Creative Arts Programs
- Movies
- Fitness Classes
- Cooking
- Additional meeting space





## Community Participation in a Capital Fundraising Drive

If the Southbury community embarked on a Capital Drive would you do any of the following? (check all that apply)

- ▶ 61% Volunteer
- ▶ 60.8% Contribute
- ▶ 10.1% Leadership Role
- ▶ 11.7% None of the Above

#### Capital Funds for Development

Where do you think funds to build a community center should come from? (Check all that apply)

- ▶ Donations 88.5%
- ▶ Foundation 75.5%
- ▶ Tax Money 54.1%
- State/Federal Grants 86.2%



#### **Operational Support**

Where do you think operational funds should come from? (check all that apply)

- ▶ Community Philanthropy 64.8%
- ► Foundations 60.9%
- ► Tax Money 53.2%
- State/Federal Grants 67.8%
- ▶ Membership Fees 67.2%

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## Support for a (Regional/Tri-bury) Community Center



- ▶ 73.7% of Respondents -Answered Yes
- 26.3% of Respondents -Answered No



#### **Additional Themes**

- Great idea!!!! & LET'S DO THIS
- Overall excitement for a Community Center
- A Community Center is needed
- It should be like a YMCA, Newtown Youth Academy, Edmond Town Hall
- Overall people are pleased with Southbury and a development of a community center



#### Feasibility & Capacity Subcommittee

- 1. Reviewed and summarized community philanthropy
- 2. Assessed feasibility for giving
- 3. Developed a list of (50 to 75) key stakeholders
- 4. Made recommendations and developed a guide of next steps for capacity building and capital development



#### **Collaboration and Community Models**

- Visited and assessed other community center models:
  - Ridgefield Community Center, Ridgefield CT;
  - **Wheeler YMCA, Plainville CT;**
  - III. Indian Valley YMCA, Vernon CT;
  - IV. Putnam Family YMCA, Putnam CT;
  - v. YMCA Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge, NJ
- 2. Made recommendations regarding best practices



#### **Key Findings from Other Communities**

- Toured facilities found utilization better than expected
- Parking needs to be adequate; typically underestimated
- Location matters keep close to community center
- Multi-purpose rooms are essential
- All recreational facilities are in demand –
   Gymnasium, Pool (two different types –
   teaching & competitive), and Fitness Center
- Two facilities housed a cultural theater/stage
- Include outdoor running trail/walking path
- ▶ Keep landscaping to a minimum cost



#### **Five Basic Models**

- For-Profit Organization
- Town Owned and Operated Community Center
- Town built-owned and operated by contracted entity with experience
- New non-profit organization that owns and is responsible for operations
- Branch of the <u>Greater</u> Waterbury "Y"

#### **Comparison of Alternative Models**

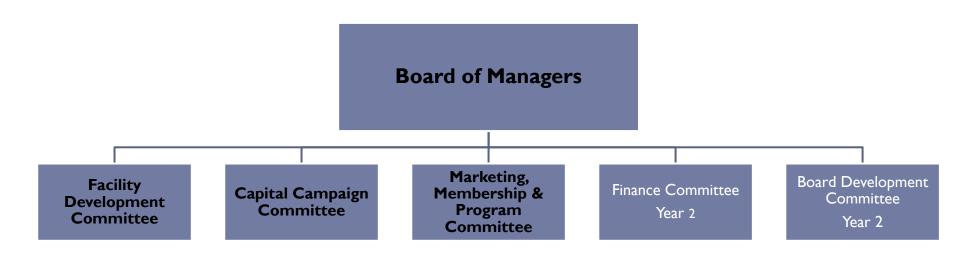
Model	Advantage	Disadvantages
For Profit	<ul> <li>No Town Involvement – no need for political or government involvement</li> <li>No Fund raising required</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finding an investor is key</li> <li>Not clear if investor will meet needs of entire community</li> <li>May not provide an opportunity for community involvement</li> </ul>
Town Owned and Operated Facility	<ul> <li>Focus on what community wants without outside influences</li> <li>Build on experience of P&amp;R Commission</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Potential for political influence in direction and scope</li> <li>Lack of expertise in managing a community center</li> <li>All taxpayers share in burden</li> </ul>
Town built-owned but operated by contracted entity with experience	<ul> <li>Focus on what community wants without outside influences</li> <li>Build on experience of P&amp;R Commission</li> <li>Lower operating cost than town operated – competitive bid</li> <li>Experienced organization that has tools for establishing a new community center and ongoing operations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ultimate fiduciary responsibility is with Town</li> <li>All taxpayers share in burden</li> <li>Potential for political influence in direction and scope and selection of entity</li> </ul>
New non-profit organization to own and operate	<ul> <li>Insulated from political influence</li> <li>Financial burden falls on those interested in building/using CC</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stand alone organization without institutional support on how to operate a CC</li> <li>Probable need for "seed" money and support from Town to get started</li> </ul>
Branch of Waterbury Regional "Y"	<ul> <li>Experienced organization that has tools for establishing a new community center and ongoing operation</li> <li>No direct political influence</li> <li>Local fund raising still required but capital dollars designated only for CC</li> <li>"Y" has ultimate fiduciary responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Some sense of less local control</li> <li>Would need to be seen as a regional center (maybe seen as advantage)</li> <li>May need "seed" money and/or resources from Town to get started</li> </ul>

Note: Questions about implementation schedule would be left to next stage regardless of the model chosen

#### YMCA Charter and Board of Managers

- ▶ BOS Resolution -- Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen of Southbury authorizes the First Selectman to request the Greater Waterbury Y to engage in a conceptual design phase to facilitate the eventual establishment of a community center as a branch of the Greater Waterbury Regional Y to serve Southbury and surrounding communities.
- ▶ January 24, 2013 Board of Directors of the Greater Waterbury YMCA unanimously approved the application to develop a branch in Southbury.
- ▶ March of 2013 Application for the Regional YMCA was sent to the YMCA of the USA.
- ▶ June of 2013 Received approval of the Charter for the Regional YMCA from the YMCA of the USA.

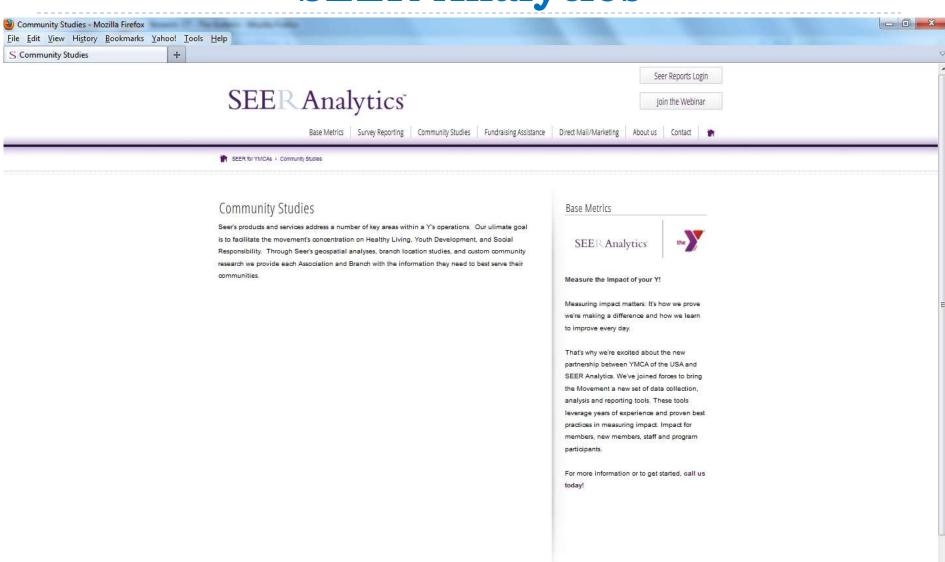
### Regional YMCA Board of Managers and Organizational Chart



#### Conceptual Site Plan



#### **SEER Analytics**









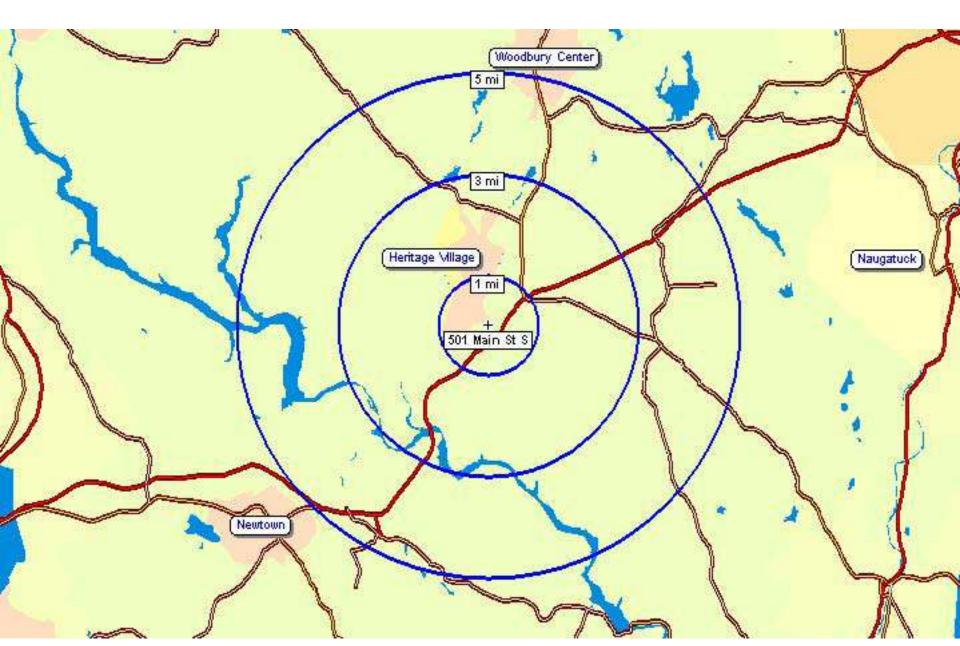








#### 5 mile drive

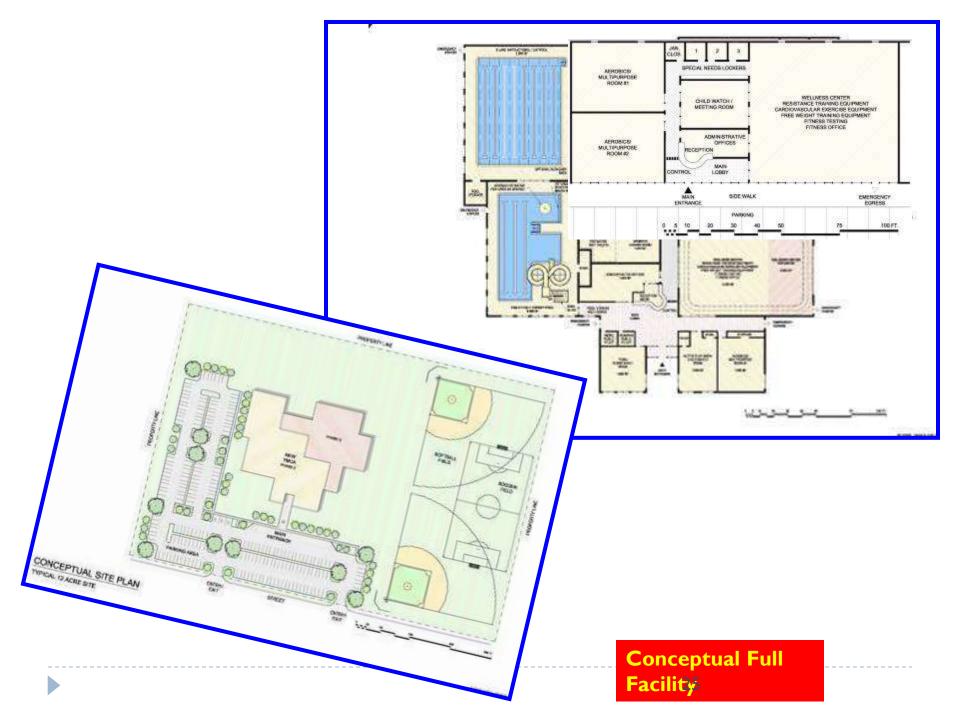


#### Demographic Profile (estimated)

- I Mile Ring I,812
- 3 Mile Ring 17,755
- 5 Mile Ring 34,987
- 12 Minute Contour 51,605

#### Development of Conceptual Facility Plan

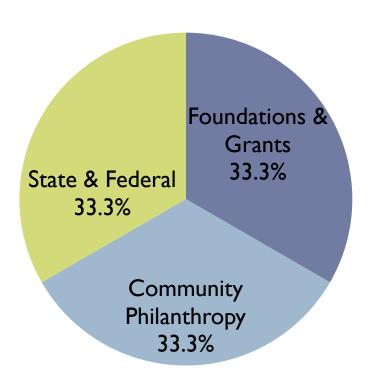
- Average Facility: 35,000 to 65,000 sq. ft.
- Standard Amenities: Gymnasium, Community Rooms, Rock Climbing, Youth Activity Rooms, Natatorium (Pool), Lockers Rooms, Wellness Center, Group Exercise Rooms, Common Area, Offices and Child Watch
- Additional Amenities: Performing Arts, Auditorium,
   Concession Area (Subway), Child Care Rooms, Ice Rink





#### **Development of Estimated Campaign Goal**

#### 10-15 Million Dollars



# Questions, Closing & Thank You!!