

# WOODBIDGE TOWN CENTER CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

ADOPTED DEC. 11, 2018

First Selectman Beth Heller's vision of making the Town Center Campus a more beautiful, inviting and pedestrian-friendly space led to the creation of The Woodbridge Town Center Campus Beautification Plan. This plan is designed to make the Town Center Campus a place that welcomes residents to linger and interact, thereby creating a stronger community.

The Town Center Campus is the center of official Town business and its appearance is a reflection of our Town's pride and values. A more beautiful and welcoming Town Center could positively impact the way people interact while in the area and could affect the way residents and visitors feel about Woodbridge.

This plan is limited to the Town Center Campus, which includes the Public Works building, Town Hall, the Town Green and Gazebo, the Center Building, the Library, the Old Firehouse and the Grove area between the Center Building, Library and Old Firehouse.

Unlike many other towns, the Town of Woodbridge's commercial center is separate from the municipal center and both are set apart from the majority of residences. This, combined with the Town's semi-rural nature, means that residents are often physically isolated from each other and from public gathering places.

The goals of this plan are to make the Town Center Campus a welcoming, easy-to-navigate and attractive public gathering space that encourages residents to linger and interact, hopefully resulting in a stronger sense of community.

This plan was reviewed by and includes input from the Board of Selectmen, the Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Properties, the Recreation Commission, Human Services Commission and the Library Commission.

## Welcoming Town Center Campus

1. Provide places to linger
  - Install outdoor seating at the Old Firehouse, Grove, Library Lawn through the park bench donation program
    - Public Works maintains a list of locations where benches are needed and how many are needed per location. The donation program form is on the Public Works' and Recreation Department's websites.
  - Create Town Green garden
    - This garden is being created through a donation from Robin Gordon Schafer and her family. Maintenance of the garden will be paid for by the family.
  - Create café

- In summer 2018 the Senior Center entered into an agreement for a pilot program café.
  - Improve/expand wifi
    - This is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
- 2. Create/highlight recreation offerings
  - Create dog park
    - The Board of Selectmen, in 2018, granted permission to the dog park collective to use a portion of the Fitzgerald Tract for a dog park assuming the collective is able to raise the funds necessary to create the park.
  - Promote bocce
    - The Senior Center is actively promoting bocce and an extra set of bocce balls is available for check-out at the Library.
  - Install and promote shuffleboard
    - The Recreation Department purchased a shuffleboard in 2018 and Public Works will install it.
  - Continue to host outdoor concerts and movies
    - Recreation hosts concerts on the Green in July and the Library has hosted concerts and movies on the Green in August.

### Easy to Navigate

1. Improve Pedestrian/Cyclist Access
  - Connect Amity High School to Library with a sidewalk
    - This is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
  - Upgrade the following existing sidewalks from asphalt to 5-foot-wide concrete: the Library sidewalk; the Library side of the Center Building; the sidewalk from the Library to the Old Firehouse.
  - Add decorative lighting from Center Building to Library along sidewalk and along sidewalk from Library to Old Firehouse and in small Library parking lot
    - This is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
  - Connect Town Center to Fitzgerald Field walking trails with a sidewalk and crosswalk
    - This is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
  - Promote walking trails and their connections to Town Center amenities
  - Add bike racks
  - Work with Complete Streets Committee to identify other potential pedestrian and cyclist improvements
2. Install Wayfinding and other Signs
  - Install signage to identify Town Center Campus and Town buildings and offices using the Wayfinding Study

- This is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
- Create and install map with Town Center facilities, trails, parking and distances to each
  - This could be a future Board of Selectmen capital budget item request
- Create information boards to reduce A-frame sign clutter
  - This could be an Eagle Scout project
- Improve trail signage
  - A sign inventory should take into account trail heads, maps and signage within trails
  - This project could be undertaken by a Boy Scout, Girl Scout. the Conservation Commission or CUPOP

### Well-cared for Buildings

#### 1. Town Hall

- Remove overgrown bushes
- Power wash, paint building
- Add new walkway and curbing
- Install irrigation and reseed front lawn

#### 2. Center Building

- Add Senior Center bathroom, ramp
- Renovate Senior Center
  - The project is currently in the design phase (2018). The work would be a Maintenance capital budget item request
- Determine how to best use Fitness Center space once the Old Firehouse is open
- New gym curtain
- Seal gym floors
  - This would allow for events with food in the gym
  - This is a Maintenance capital budget item request
- New, larger projector screen
  - This would make movies in the gym a possibility and would improve visuals at Town-wide meetings
  - This could be a Maintenance operating budget item request
- New chairs for gym
  - This would make meetings and events more comfortable
  - Current chairs are missing chair tips and may be damaging the floor
  - This could be a Maintenance capital or operating budget item

#### 3. Old Firehouse

- Restore building for public use: Antique fire truck, Fitness Center, Meeting/program space and lease top floor to Amity Regional High School Transition Program

- The storage shed is a Board of Selectmen capital budget item request