

**Holliston Community Center Task Force  
2013 Report of Findings  
16 October 2013**

**Introduction**

The Holliston Board of Selectmen established the Community Center Task Force (CCTF) in December 2012 with the charge to develop a report about the concept of a community center, including recommendations, to serve the intellectual, physical and social needs of seniors, other adults, teens and youth in our community.

Specifically, the CCTF was tasked to

- 1) Determine the need
- 2) Explore other towns' approaches to providing these services in an effort to determine best practices
- 3) Confirm the stakeholders
- 4) Identify the services they need
- 5) Examine potential other uses i.e. emergency shelter, rentable facilities
- 6) Determine how the services get delivered

The CCTF members were appointed from the Holliston Council on Aging, Recreation Department, School Department, Youth & Family Services, and 3-5 members from the community at large. The committee members include:

Carl Damigella (chairman, Water Department board)  
Heidi Schreuder-Gibson (recorder, President of Friends of Holliston Youth & Family Services)  
Mark Ahronian (at large)  
Tom O'Leary (at large)  
Keith Buday (School Department)  
Bob Nemitt (Highway Department)  
Kristen Hedrick (Recreation Department)  
Kevin Robert Malone (Council on Aging)  
Robert Naughton (Advisory Board of Youth & Family Services)

**Discussion of Goals, Objectives and Tasks**

The CCTF held its first meeting in January 2013 and began its work with an assessment of the conditions of current town buildings to determine the facility needs of each department. This was decided to be an appropriate and economical approach to developing the concept of the community center. While other towns, such as Lexington, developed their concepts from community surveys and needs, Holliston began with the reverse – to find existing land and facilities and then determine what could fit.

• **Determination of Need - Siting Study**

The condition of the Senior Center was reviewed. In January 2013, the Council on Aging reported that the roof had been leaking, despite recent repairs in 2012. Mold was a concern, and lack of parking was another issue. Unless a roof repair could be authorized, there would be an urgent need for a new Senior Center.

At the same time, the Recreation Department and the Youth & Family Services building (the Flagg building) had a failing heating system, extensive mold and asbestos issues, and in general the degradation of the building was close to critical – without a new boiler before December 2013, these departments would be out of a home. The possibility of moving the Senior Center to a new facility, and moving a different department into the original building on Goulding Street was discussed. The building of a new community center could provide a domino effect whereby many town departments could move into larger accommodations or expand. This siting assessment by the Task Force was to identify and rank the important functions, location consideration, parking accommodations, age of the existing buildings, future service life of existing facilities, future department needs, access, associated property, and available town property for a new building.

- I. **Flagg School.** The original purpose of the building was for education. The property title of the building/land specified by the donating parties that the building use was reserved for educational purposes only – permission for the use of the building for a Cole-Flagg community center was sought by the first CCTF and received from the Cole family. Currently, the Holliston School Committee retains ownership of the building, to ensure that the property and building adjacent to the school is not used for inappropriate purposes, and could use the building again for public school needs. Turning the building over to the town has never been authorized. The 25,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building has been used for Recreation Department offices and programming, Youth & Family services, storage, and temporary offices for the Town Offices and the Police Department during their construction phases. At the present time, the office areas of the building are habitable but require a new heating system while the classroom areas have been unheated for years and are degrading rapidly with much surface (tiles, windows and doors) damage but no apparent structural damage.
- II. **Woodland Land.** The town owns 5 acres behind the VFW building, across the street from the Adams School. This site is a half-star shape with wetlands on the west end. It would be sufficient for a recreation building and gym with parking, but would not be able to include a senior center. The location is ideal for youth after school access. The traffic congestion on Woodland Street would pose access problems to this community center site during school drop off and pick up times. The land is abutted by BU, but it was determined that even if arrangements could be made to increase acreage for a larger building and more parking, the driveway would not be wide enough for a full use community center.
- III. **Potoma Park.** This property includes extensive acreage, two tennis courts, soccer fields, woods, and a recreation building used in the summer for Camp Potoma. This parcel of land can accommodate a very large building (perkings of the site for septic assessment has been done) and parking of over 200 spaces can be included. This site would serve multiple functions, and a full service community center with recreation programming, a senior center, a full gym, and function space for rental could be envisioned. The distance from the schools could be a difficulty for youth after school programming and would need to be addressed by busing.
- IV. **Pinecrest Property.** The town owns 90 acres on Miller hill behind the Pinecrest golf course. This land could be accessed by the golf course parking lot. The land was perked a few years ago and can accommodate a large leachfield (for clubhouse plans at the time). There is sufficient space for a full service community center with a gymnasium, classrooms, offices for many town functions, and a senior center. Indeed the only downside to this site is the increased traffic and the potential to increase congestion at the Prentice/Highland intersection. The site is also not ideally located for youth access from the schools. However, operation of a full service

community center behind the golf course would increase patronage of the golf course and restaurant which would benefit the town.

- V. **Other sites** considered were 1) The Barbieri property at the corner of Washington and Hopping Brook Road (9 acres being subdivided for development and abutting the bike path); the Taylor property on Prentice (being subdivided into 1-3 acre parcels for residential development); property near Ashland mini-golf course on route 126 (too far away from town schools); the town owns 8 acres up the hill behind the Town Hall – perked for 30 units, but too steep for community center parking lot construction and access; Andrews school was considered, but there are major parking and access issues with that location; a town-owned lot exists at the corner of Prentice and Highland (corner lot across from the High School) but this was too small for a building with parking lot, and traffic at this corner is already a problem.
- VI. **Commercial sites.** The CCTF site committee met with realtors to assess the availability of commercial property in town. The only commercial building that would fit the space, parking and functional requirements of a community center was the recently sold Wilde building at 200 Summer St. This 80,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building has a large warehouse in the style of an old red barn. Offices are located in a home-styled building adjacent to the warehouse. A walk-through of the building revealed that there was sufficient space for numerous town offices and storage requirements for departments (and community groups). Reception area and adjoining offices are possible, including Recreation, Youth & Family Services, Senior Center, Veterans Services; rear areas are available for additional occupancy including Water Department offices, Highway Department offices, some public works functions (loading bays and open space), emergency services (new fire/ambulance location) and room for unspecified activity areas in air-conditioned warehouse assembly floors (possible location for Boys & Girls club activities). The building has a dining room, a full kitchen, multiple shower rooms, public restrooms, and private meeting areas. Although the location is 1.5 miles from the public schools, it abuts the Wenakeening woods trails and is near the bike path for car-free access for youth and families. There is sufficient parking for a full service community center. Parking near side doors provide easy access for seniors and privacy entrances are possible.

- **Determination of Need – Surveys**

The previous Community Center Task Force in 1999-2004 conducted a school-based survey of over 200 students in grades 6, 7, and 10/11. Results of that survey are attached (Attachment I). In summary, there was an overwhelming agreement that students would use a youth center, and that a center should serve 13-18 year olds, mainly from 2-6pm with some activities in the evening (6-8pm). Students were split regarding how much they would use the youth center, but most indicated that they would use the center moderately (once in a while) or more than once a week.

This 2013 Community Center Task Force conducted a community-wide survey online (71 respondents) and at Celebrate Holliston (50 respondents). The CCTF continues to receive online input, and the results of the Celebrate Holliston survey are tabulated in Attachment II, while the online survey is tabulated in Attachment III. In summary, the community survey showed an overwhelming response to the idea of providing an updated facility for the Recreation Department, Youth & Family Services and the Senior Center in a building called the Community Center. Although a list of 13 proposed functions were provided in the survey to

choose from, the survey showed a clear preference for 6 key features (receiving better than 50% positive response):

- 1) Recreation Department with classrooms and gym
- 2) Youth center with group activities and nontraditional sports
- 3) Workout rooms with shower facilities
- 4) Kitchen/lounge for community groups or rentals
- 5) Storage for youth sports and community service groups
- 6) Gym for pickup games and league rentals

Also, in the survey it was apparent that the respondents would expect to make use of the community center moderately-to-often, even if not located in the center of town, and some respondents indicated that when using alternate transportation, walking was most popular. Most respondents were in the 30-49 age group.

Census input. Town data from 2000-2005 reported on [citytowninfo.com](http://citytowninfo.com), shows that the town is experiencing a drop in student population; the 2000-2010 census statistics show that Holliston has had a 1.8% drop in total population with a growing senior population that has increased 48% over this 10-year period. This town has a more educated population and a relatively higher income level than similar towns of this size nationwide; and Holliston has higher taxes than towns of similar size nationwide or statewide. This census data suggests that Holliston is maturing, is likely to be interested in educational recreational programming, is facing a growing need to support seniors, and isn't easily going to support increasing taxes.

Past surveys of youth behavior risks and parental awareness conducted in Holliston can be made available by the Youth & Family Services Department and online. The MetroWest Health Foundation ([www.mwhealth.org](http://www.mwhealth.org)) surveyed 24,459 students in grades 9-12 in 2012 (90% of the youth in 26 high schools across the MetroWest). Combined with other surveys, taken between 2006 to 2012, a summary of current youth behavior trends is available for "key health indicators including substance use, violence, bullying, mental health, sexual behavior, and physical activity" (quoted from reference). Results of the surveys showed that youth in the schools reported higher incidences of substance use and risky behavior than parents realized (in comparative surveys of parents). As a result of the surveys, youth and family awareness programming were identified as a significant need in the effort to reduce social problems that are growing in Holliston and the MetroWest area. A summary of the 6-year survey statistics is listed in Appendix IV.

- **Explore other Towns Approaches**

The Community Center Task Force conducted two site visits to other town community centers: Natick and Weston.

- I. **Natick Community Center.** In January 2013, Five Task Force members met the Director of the Natick Community Center, Dick Cugini, at the new facility and took a guided tour of the building. In summary, the Natick Community Center is a 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup> two-story building on 5 acres of land with parking lots for 135 cars. The Community Center project was just under \$10M. The building floor plan was provided to the CCTF. The building features a full court gymnasium with two-lane

walking track around the court, locker rooms, pull out bleachers (small), and a \$9K floor covering system to protect the floor for multipurpose use. The gym also has storage closets for chairs, an AV system, and a family changing room with showers. There are washer and dryer facilities in a security room, and it is notable that this Center is also an Emergency Shelter site for the Town of Natick. There is a fitness room, which is equipped through a grant from the Metrowest Health Foundation. Charges are \$25/6months for seniors over 60, and \$40/6months for residents and nonresidents under 60 years old. There are two classrooms as well as a multipurpose room for exercise classes (yoga, etc). These are also used for veterans support classes. The check in lobby has a card swipe system and is supported by a large staff area with up to 8 desks for office workers/volunteers. There is a common area for a library/coffee area in view of the front door, with access to a patio area. This was found to be a very inviting and well-used space despite the noise of the lobby. Off the lobby is a gift shop, and an extensive computer room near the entrance. There are monitors and cameras all over the building that feed to the front desk, the security room and the police station. On the opposite side of the building from the gym/locker rooms is the Great Room, containing a dining hall with a stage and a *sizable industrial kitchen that is used to prepare Meals on Wheels*. The dining hall can be divided in half, and there are separate AV systems for each half – this appears to be an excellent facility for rentals and events. There are executive offices downstairs including the director's office and a Veteran's affairs office, the Human services/COA office and executive assistant. Upstairs are classrooms with sinks, counters and cabinets for cooking, sewing, knitting and art classes. There is a card room, a TV room, and a game room with two pool tables and an extensive storage area with cages for file and maintenance storage. There are also social services offices (4) with a counseling waiting room and two conference areas, as well as a health exam room. Staffing: one full-time custodian and two part-time assistants for set up and event support; one Community Center director, front desk staff, and volunteers. Natick's Community Center was set up well to serve the senior population, and could accommodate after-school activities, but could not support preschool family classes. Natick has another location at the Cole School for their Recreation programs, so that the Community Center does not have to serve all the needs of all populations. This is different than Holliston's needs that do not currently include adequate facilities for Parks and Recreation services for Youth & Families. Notably, the Natick Center did not house facilities that were in significant competition with the services and facilities that the School Department might make available for rent, so conflict or competition for outside resources were probably not important.

- II. **Weston Community Center.** Members of the CCTF visited the Weston Community Center in March 2013. Doug O'Donnell, Director of the Weston Recreation Department, manages the facility and gave the tour. The Weston Community Center is located on town property next to the School Department building and the Middle School on Alphabet Lane. The Recreation Department was originally in the

basement of the school gym (in 1985) – then was placed in the School Department Building until 1998 when Weston began fundraising (throughout the 1990's) and built the new Community Center building. The new building cost \$4.2M (\$3M bond) to build (\$1.2M was raised privately), with an additional \$1.3M used to build up the school septic system. Overall, a building like Weston's would require more \$5.5M in today's dollars. The building phase took 2 years. The Recreation Department operates out of the Community Center with an annual budget of \$1.5M, and they return \$35K to the town each year. Rec department operates the "extended day" afterschool program which generates \$800K per year with hours from 2-4pm daily. The afterschool program serves K-3 in the building. Middle school afterschool program stays primarily in the Middle school with band, orchestra and sports programs in the school building. The Community Center manager has an enterprise account that is used to purchase equipment and improvements needed in the building after approval at Town Meeting. Weston's community center is currently contemplating the purchase of a generator in order to better serve the community as an emergency shelter. Facilities: 22,050 square foot building with three levels: 22,000 ft<sup>2</sup> usable space. The center has a Great Room with vaulted 2-story ceiling and wood beam/paneling/flooring for premium rental use (area of 20x40 ft<sup>2</sup> seating 160): \$1,200 non-resident and \$800 resident Bar mitzvah, wedding and social parties; \$300 (3hr) birthday parties; \$1,200 professional meetings; used also for multiple town meetings and functions at no cost to town. Great room is used for exercise classes, afterschool play, and rentals. The Great Room has an adjoining kitchen that can be used for catering, but is smaller than an industrial kitchen – ideal for cooking classes for all ages. Weston Senior Center is located on 1<sup>st</sup> floor, while Recreation center is located on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and classrooms are located on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Senior center has its own separate entrance and offices, with small kitchen, classrooms, dance/exercise room, card room, and sitting/meeting room. Senior outdoor patio with tall windows in card and meeting rooms provide good light. 1<sup>st</sup> floor is cozy and warm. The Senior Center is outgrowing their space, however. Pantry shelf exists in small closet, and a larger closet is devoted to extra wheelchairs, walkers, and equipment. OPERATIONS: The Weston CC isn't as modular as the Natick CC. Note that the Natick CC has its own building manager. Weston CC is managed by the Recreation Director, who is the go-to person to solve all building problems. He meets regularly with the Senior Center staff and addresses their daily concerns, but is under great pressure to accommodate all while also running profitable programs in the building. It appeared that this arrangement may be too much for one person, and that creates friction between functions. The Weston Director Doug O'Donnell is a Holliston resident and offered to meet with the Task Force to answer further questions about Community Center planning.

- **Confirm the stakeholders**

The CCTF sent out surveys of needs to various town departments who might be expected to be housed in a full service community center, including departments who would probably not need to be relocated to the center, but who might have some offices or functions in a center. Departments of Recreation, Youth & Family Services, Senior Center (Council on Aging), Veterans Services, Fire, Highway, and Water were sent surveys to describe their needs and interest. The stakeholder surveys returned with defined space needs were

- 1) Recreation Department
- 2) Youth & Family Services
- 3) Senior Center (Council on Aging)
- 4) Veteran's Services

These are the primary stakeholders for a new or refurbished community center. Other possible stakeholders would include the Holliston Historical Society, HCAT, auxiliary police & fire, service clubs, town volunteer groups, single residents, families and students.

Needs of the stakeholders are listed in Appendix V. Expansion of the Recreation Facilities is a major thrust, as is the need for more parking and classrooms and meeting rooms for the Senior Center. The Veteran's services have no offices in the Hopkinton, Holliston, and Ashland area so this is a clear need. Although we did not survey the community volunteer groups or service organizations, it is known that all volunteer groups have difficulty finding meeting space in Holliston, and require more storage space for their fundraising activities, while service clubs regularly meet in neighboring towns.

- **Determine how the services get delivered**

The CCTF has determined that there is a need for a Community Center in Holliston. The composition of stakeholders in the center have not yet been determined, but a number of affordable options exist within town to accommodate the needs of town departments, town residents, and veteran's services for the surrounding community.

**OPTION 1 –Build a Full Service Community Center** (Patoma or Pinecrest)

**Features:** Recreation Department, Senior Center, Youth & Family & Veterans Services, Offices, Gym, Workout Rooms, Showers, Great Room, Industrial Kitchen, Multipurpose Room, Classrooms, Meeting Rooms, Community Service Storage, Emergency Services/Shelter, other town departments as appropriate. **Transportation:** car, bus, walk, bike. **Staff:** requires full time director, part time staff, volunteers, reception area.

**OPTION 2 – Community Center for Recreation**, no expansion (Flagg or Woodland 5 acres)

**Features:** Recreation Department, Youth & Family & Veterans Services, Gym, Classrooms, Offices, Meeting Rooms, Community Service Storage. **Transportation:** car, bus, walk, bike. **Staff:** Part time staff, volunteers, reception area.

### **OPTION 3 – Rent a Full Service Community Center (Wilde Building)**

**Features:** Recreation Department, Senior Center, Youth & Family & Veterans Services, Offices, Gym, Workout Rooms, Showers, Great Room, Industrial Kitchen, Multipurpose Room, Classrooms, Meeting Rooms, Community Service Storage, Emergency Services/Shelter, other town departments as appropriate. **Transportation:** car, bus, walk, bike. **Staff:** requires full time director, part time staff, volunteers, reception area.

### **OPTION 4 – Combined Community Center & Other Organizations (Wilde Building, Patoma or Pinecrest)**

**Features:** Share building with Boys & Girls Club; YMCA; private organizations; surrounding towns. Recreation Department, Senior Center, Youth & Family & Veterans Services, Offices, Gym, Workout Rooms, Showers, Great Room, Industrial Kitchen, Multipurpose Room, Classrooms, Meeting Rooms, Community Service Storage, Emergency Services/Shelter, other town departments as appropriate. **Transportation:** car, bus, walk, bike. **Staff:** requires full time director, part time staff, volunteers, reception area.

- **Summary of Holliston Community Center Task Force 2013 Needs/Opportunities Assessment**

1. There is an immediate need for a new facility for the Holliston Recreation Department and the Youth & Family Services offices. As this CCTF work proceeds towards a wrap up in 2013, town decisions are beginning to form regarding capital improvement to the heating system in the Flagg building for the Departments of Recreation and Youth & Family Services office areas.
2. There is a growing need for Senior Center expansion. Now at the end of 2013, town decisions are beginning to form regarding capital improvements to the existing Senior Center roof and parking problems, so the urgency for a new senior center or the integration of a senior center into a comprehensive community center may lessen.
3. There is a clear interest among students and the community for a Community Center with after-school programming, a gymnasium, a fitness center, a kitchen/lounge and meeting/storage areas for community groups.
4. Numerous options are available for continued Task Force assessments. Siting details, cost/benefit analysis, fundraising prospects, and leveraging opportunities need to be explored for:
  - OPTION 1 –Build a Full Service Community
  - OPTION 2 – Community Center for Recreation
  - OPTION 3 – Rent a Full Service Community Center
  - OPTION 4 – Combined Community Center & Other Organizations

This Task Force recommends advancement to the next phase of detailed analysis of a new Holliston Community Center.

#### **References:**

<http://www.mwhealth.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Adolescent%20Health%20Survey%202012%20High%20School%20R.pdf>



## ATTACHMENT I

### Summary of 2000 Survey of Holliston Students

If there was a Teen Center in Holliston, would you go?

<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>UNDECIDED</b>
Grade 6 (21 students responding)	<b>100%</b>	0	0
Grade 7 (161 students)	<b>71%</b>	24%	5%
Grade 10/11 (31 students)	<b>84%</b>	16%	0

What age group(s) would you like the Ten Center to be directed towards?

<b>AGE GROUPS CONSIDERED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b><u>10-20</u></b>	<b><u>12-21</u></b>	<b><u>10-14</u></b>	<b><u>13-18</u></b>
Grade 6 (21 students responding)	---	19%	10%	24%	<b>29%</b>
Grade 7 (161 students)	5%	7%	16%	8%	<b>59%</b>
Grade 10/11 (31 students)	3%	0%	29%	0%	<b>61%</b>

If you were in High School, would you go to events if Middle School kids were there?

<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Grade 6 (21 students responding)	<b>67%</b>	33%
Grade 7 (161 students)	<b>63%</b>	34%
Grade 10/11 (31 students)	26%	<b>74%</b>

When would you be most likely to use the Center?

	<b>2-6pm</b>	<b>6-8pm</b>	<b>8-10pm</b>	<b>Wkend Days</b>	<b>Wkend nights</b>
Grade 6	<b>76%</b>	14%	0%	29%	19%
Grade 7	<b>42%</b>	19%	15%	20%	25%
Grade 10/11	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	29%	6%	26%

How often do you think you would use the Center?

	<b>Once a week</b>	<b>More than O/W</b>	<b>Once in a while</b>	<b>Never</b>
Grade 6	24%	<b>57%</b>	19%	0%
Grade 7	25%	33%	<b>35%</b>	5%
Grade 10/11	19%	<b>52%</b>	26%	3%

\*With approximately 215 students per grade. 10% 6<sup>th</sup> graders responded; 75% 7<sup>th</sup> graders responding; 7% 10-11<sup>th</sup> graders responding.

ATTACHMENT II  
**Survey of Interest and Need for a  
HOLLISTON COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Responses: **20-29**, **30-49**, **50-69** (from Celebrate Holliston)

**1. Holliston needs an updated Senior Center, and a building for our Recreation Department and our Youth and Family Services Department. Do you agree?**

**100%, 68%, 89% Agree strongly**

**\_\_\_ Disagree somewhat**

**26%, 11% Agree somewhat**

**3% Disagree strongly**

**8% Not sure\***

**Comments:**

Most needed for Rec and Youth & Families

\*Unsure of current facilities

**2. Would you use a community center if it included the following services? (Check all that apply)**

**100%, 32%, 89%** Senior Center w/dining room, classrooms, craft rooms, game rooms (22, 40%)

**100%, 89%, 67%** Recreation Department with classrooms and gymnasium (42, 84%)

**100%, 58%, 67%** Workout room/showers (32, 64%)

**100%, 89%, 56%** Youth Center with group activities and nontraditional sports (41, 82%)

**50%, 45%, 33%** Youth and Family Services w counseling/engagement programming (21, 42%)

**100%, 18%, 22%** Department of Veterans Affairs (11, 22%)

**50%, 34%, 56%** Volunteer coordination/opportunities desk (19, 38%)

**100%, 34%, 44%** Storage for youth sports and community service groups (29, 58%)

**50%, 60%, 33%** Gym for pickup and league rentals (27, 54%)

**50%, 47%, 33%** Indoor field for pickup and league rentals (22, 44%)

**100%, 60%, 67%** Kitchen/Lounge for community groups or rental (31, 62%)

**50%, 32%, 33%** Mini-library/computer room (16, 32%)

**33%** Other: suggest programs and features of interest: **Pool**

**3. Would you use a community center if it was not centrally located in downtown Holliston?**

**50%, 29%, 56%** Often(34%)      **5%, 11%** Rarely(6%)      **50%, 58%, 33%** Moderately(52%)      Not at all

**Would busing (2, 4%), walking (15, 30%), or biking (12, 24%) to the facility be useful? (circle preferred modes).**

**4. Do you think the following groups from Holliston would routinely use a full service community center as described in 2? (Y-Yes or N-No or M-Maybe)**

**92%Y Seniors**

**72% Y&M Parents and Preschoolers**

**82%Y Families**

**77% Y&M Volunteer Organizations**

**82% Y&M Youth**

**74% Y Sports Leagues**

**5. Your age category (Check all that apply):**

**\_\_\_ Under 20**

**2 20-29**

**38 30-49**

**9 50-69**

**\_\_\_ 70**

- Interested in planning/fundraising? (4 email addresses volunteered)

Total Surveyed at Celebrate Holliston 2013: **50 total**      **Purple = more than 50% approval**

ATTACHMENT III  
SurveyMonkey Online Survey  
RESULTS: OCT 5, 2013  
**Purple = more than 50% approval**

Holliston needs an updated Senior Center, and a building for our Recreation Department and our Youth and Family Services Department.  
Do you agree?

- Answered: 71
- Skipped: 2

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly	Not sure	Total	Average Rating
(no label)	56.34%	26.76%	8.45%	1.41%	7.04%	71	4.24
	40	19	6	1	5		
<a href="#">Comments(8)</a>							

Would you use a community center if it included the following services?  
(Check all that apply)

- Answered: 68
- Skipped: 5

Answer Choices	Responses
Youth and Family Services with counseling and engagement programming	35.29% 24
Youth Center with group activities and nontraditional sports	80.88% 55
Workout room/showers	54.41% 37
Volunteer coordination/opportunities desk	52.94% 36
Storage for youth sports and community service groups	29.41% 20
Senior Center with dining room, classrooms, craft rooms and game rooms	32.35% 22
Recreation Department with classrooms and gymnasium	70.59% 48
Mini-library/computer room	35.29% 24
Kitchen/Lounge for community groups or rental	63.24% 43
Indoor field for pickup and league rentals	41.18% 28
Gym for pickup and league rentals	52.94% 36
Department of Veterans Affairs	14.71% 10
Total Respondents: 68	
<a href="#">Comments(10)</a>	

## Would you use a community center if it was not located near downtown Holliston?

- Answered: 71
- Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses
Often	26.76% 19
Rarely	15.49% 11
Moderately	50.70% 36
Not at All	7.04% 5
Total Respondents: 71	

## Do you think the following groups from Holliston would routinely use a full service community center as described in question 2?

	Yes	No	Maybe	Total Respondents
Seniors	81.43% 57	0% 0	18.57% 13	70
Families	75.71% 53	8.57% 6	15.71% 11	70
Youth	68.06% 49	6.94% 5	25% 18	72
Parents and Preschoolers	77.14% 54	5.71% 4	17.14% 12	70
Volunteer Organizations	82.61% 57	5.80% 4	11.59% 8	69
Sports Leagues	59.70% 40	8.96% 6	31.34% 21	67

## What is your age? (Total responses: 72)

Answer Choices	Responses
18 to 24	0% 0
25 to 34	4.17% 3
35 to 44	43.06% 31
45 to 54	37.50% 27
55 to 64	11.11% 8
65 to 74	4.17% 3
75 or older	0% 0

## ATTACHMENT IV

### Highlights from the 2012 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey

#### **MetroWest Region High School Report CONCLUSIONS**

The 2012 high school survey has documented a number of important findings to inform regional and local policies, practices, and programs. There has been notable progress made over the past seven years in several key areas:

- **Cigarette smoking and alcohol use have decreased substantially since 2006.** While these declines are consistent with state and national trends, they have occurred alongside important local and regional initiatives to reduce substance use.
- **There has been a recent decline in the number of youth who report being victims of bullying at school after reaching its peak in 2010.** This drop coincides with the passing of the Massachusetts anti-bullying legislation in 2010, although there may be many factors that influence students' reports of school bullying victimization.

The following behaviors show some improvement or stabilization:

- **After a slight increase in marijuana use, there may be a slight lowering or stabilization** to levels reported in earlier waves of the survey. It is unclear how recent reports of marijuana use may relate to the decriminalization of marijuana in 2009.
- **Reports of physical fighting, both on and off school property, have lowered** substantially while weapon carrying has remained similar. The lack of change in weapon carrying is noteworthy in the context of heightened concerns regarding school safety.
- **Slightly fewer youth are sexually active.** While condom use may be increasing among sexually active youth after several years of decline, many youth are not protecting themselves against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and may also be at risk of unintended pregnancy.
- **There has been an increase in physical activity and a decrease in reports of unhealthy eating,** though the data does not show a decline in obesity among youth.

Increases in harmful behaviors are noted in the following areas:

- **Despite a steady decline in school bullying reports, cyberbullying victimization has risen steadily since 2006.** Cyberbullying is especially a problem for females, who are particularly vulnerable to involvement in relational forms of bullying that often occur online.
- **Mental health problems, including stress, depressive symptoms, and suicidality, continue to affect substantial proportions of youth.** Among girls, there are concerning increases in reports of stress, self-injury, and suicidal ideation.

The 2012 MWAHS shows substantial progress in reducing several concerning behaviors, including cigarette smoking, alcohol use, and school bullying. However, many high school youth

continue to engage in unhealthy behaviors and report mental health problems. Continued education, programmatic, and policy initiatives are important to further improving the health of adolescents in the region.

**References:**

This summary was extracted by the Holliston CCF from the online website  
<http://www.mwhealth.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Adolescent%20Health%20Survey%202012%20High%20School%20R.pdf>)

**Attachment V**  
**Survey of Stakeholder Space Needs**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Current Facilities</b>	<b>Desired Facilities</b>
<b>Recreation</b> Morning-Afternoon 3 Staff/15 patrons	Gymnasium (none) Multipurpose Room (none) Reception Counter Classrooms (2 rooms w sinks) Exercise Room (none) Open Space (yes) Kitchen (none) Meeting Room (none) Game Room (none) Offices (2) Parking (15 + 2 Handicap) Location: near schools	<b>Gymnasium (full size)</b> <b>Multipurpose Room (large)</b> <b>Reception Counter</b> <b>Classrooms (4 rooms)</b> <b>Exercise Room (1 room)</b> <b>Open Space ( yes)</b> <b>Kitchen (yes)</b> <b>Meeting Room (yes)</b> <b>Game Room (yes)</b> <b>Offices (2)</b> <b>Parking (50 + 5 Handicap)</b> <b>Location: near schools</b>
<b>Senior Center</b> Morning-Afternoon 2 staff/volunteers	Function Room (cap. 120) Dining Room (8 tables) Computer Lab (12 units) Classrooms (1 room 546 ft²) Exercise Room (none) Pool Room (551 ft²) 1 Lounge (1, reading/TV) Meeting Room (none) Reception Area Sales Room Laundry Room (1) Offices (4) Clinic Room (none) Parking (43 + 3 Handicap)	<b>Function Room (cap. 150)</b> <b>Dining Room (10 tables)</b> <b>Computer Lab (12 units)</b> <b>Classrooms (4 rooms)</b> <b>Exercise Room (720 ft²)</b> <b>Pool Room ( 475 ft²)</b> <b>2 Lounges (1 reading, 1 TV)</b> <b>Meeting Room</b> <b>Reception Area</b> <b>Sales Room</b> <b>Laundry Room (1)</b> <b>Offices (7)</b> <b>Clinic/Med Room</b> <b>Parking (120 + 8 Handicap)</b>
<b>Veteran's Services</b> Morning-Afternoon (8-5)	Offices (none) Private Meeting Room (none) Reception Area (none) Computer Room (none) Game Room (none) File Room (none) Parking (none)	<b>Offices (3)</b> <b>Private Meeting Room (1)</b> <b>Reception Area (counter)</b> <b>Computer Room (1)</b> <b>Game Room (1)</b> <b>File Room (1)</b> <b>Parking (3 + 1 Handicap)</b>

**Appendix V (Cont)**  
**Survey of Stakeholders Needs**

**Youth and Family  
Services**

(Afternoon-Evening)

Offices (2)

Private Meeting Room (1)

Reception Area (none)

Project Room (none)

File Room (none)

Parking (none)

**Offices (3)**

**Private Meeting Room (2)**

**Reception Area (counter)**

**Project Room (1)**

**File Room (1)**

**Parking (3 + 1 Handicap)**