

# Comment Cards from June 8, 2023

## Open House

\*Former Haddam Elementary School\*

These are the comments as written exactly from the open house:

- Town Hall and community use. Veterans museum
- Should keep some for public use 1. Fix the whole roof 2. Create multi-age civic use center including relocating all town offices to HES
- Include in civic use recreational activities. Such as: dog park, playground, pickle ball, basketball courts senior center, hiking trails FOCUS ON THE KIDS! LOVE THE IDEA OF SOLAR!!!
- Preserve the building. If not it will deteriorate and crumble. Check with the school district to see if the building will need to be used again. The apartment proposal I am in favor of it. What about coordinating with Durham Middlefield to plan a charter school- inter district
- School should stay town owned – would like to see land turned into park with pavilion, splash pad for kids, playground, pickle ball court for adults/teenagers. If newer part of bldg. is saved can use for adult classes i.e.- Zumba, arts and crafts inside pickle ball court.
- Love the proposed developer scheme, best use of the land. Really wish city Hall offices would move out of the woods here and have a better public presence. Sell the old town area for single family!
- Please consider Police Office here at HES-I'd like to see Civic uses with a Senior Center – maybe most of our government uses. Consolidating users. Thanks for tonight.
- FIX the ROOF. USE HES FOR: TOWN HALL, Y& FS, PARKS/REC, SR CENTER, public use and rental (gym and auditorium), grounds for public recreation and septic – dedicated to infill development on Rt.81 under playground and basketball.
- As we shared in the online survey, we are in favor of demolishing the buildings and building parks, hiking trails, community center.
- Prefer multigenerational –1. playground, trails 2. would like to see the town hall here, sr. center, club 60, police, etc. 3. would like to see RD17 take HES back -be a school 4. DO NOT like the affordable housing plan but if we go that route would want multiple bids/proposals Renovate HES as it stands
- Keep bldg.; give space to town non-profits, use grounds for park, dog park etc., affordable housing is also good.
- If not to be used as a school again, convert to a service center or a space for the unhoused.
- Use for community Rec w/ income potential – solar panels on the new roof -sell back to Eversource – Daycare Center – this can generate a lot of money while providing a needed service
- Consolidate all Town Offices into HES. At least town people will know where Town Hall is located

- I believe the building should stay as owned by town. The building partially knocked down-use the rest for offices and classrooms for diff. activities. Mostly we should use land down in back for pavilion which could be rented out. Build a splash park, playground, new basketball courts, new tennis courts, places ALL town citizens can benefit just like ALL other towns. We don't have a paid police or fire dept. Nothing for kids, not much to encourage growth that people will move here for. I think small businesses would be more likely to come. We show nothing but a school system for our taxes as surrounding towns and they have plenty to show for it.
- Senior center is an absolute necessity. Roof replacement is necessary lower level apts. But may not be sellable without an elevator.
- FIX THE ROOF -MOVE CIVIC OPERATIONS TO THE BLDG
- Senior center, HKYFS, Police? HK Park and Rec, Trails at Swanhill – up keep (we miss 4th grade trail maintenance) Add recreational opportunities. Mixed generational activities and spaces Epicenter for community life
- Town offices – police-senior center (NOT HOUSING)-dog park-children's park, rec-area – gym etc.
- We need senior affordable housing\*the wait list to get into High Meadow is years. \*Having activity in town center Higganum is important to economic future. Combine senior and children park in HES is my recommendation.
- Make HES a true Community Center. Tear down ½ the building – results in half the roof repair. Use land for additional recreational activities. As a parent of HKHS grads teens need something to do. Somewhere to go to ...to stay out of trouble.
- Definitely town civic center to bring "LIFE" back into the area.
- Give our kids and adults place to be active outdoors – skate park, basketball, soccer, etc.
- If you bring people down to the center... businesses will come back to the center.
- FOR THE KIDS!\* AND FAMILIES! \* & Town offices for Parks&Rec etc.(family/kid related depts) NO SKATE PARKS (vandalism, etc.)
- MOVE TOWN HALL HERE. Repair Roof NO tearing down!!
- Mixed use -Town Hall
- Rec space, Park/fields,Sr. center
- Love the idea of a central location for town related offices! Dog park & splash pad 100% (happy to help in anyway!
- Center for town. - live music - events - farmers mrkts, etc
- I am for moving Town Offices to HES
- Does the whole roof need to be repaired/replaced at once? Have the town services discussed the need for more space then they currently have? Should that be considered as added to the 20,000ft?? Can the gym and auditorium also be retained in addition to the town services? Tearing the building down and making the property a park does not make sense to me- we would continue to support the town offices, senior center, etc. OR would the park be planned to draw families who would pay taxes? IF Part of the building was demolished would such a park fit? Any roofing improvements must include funding for solar and battery storage investment. Any decision on what to do with HES should be postponed until the master-plan for RSD17 is completed and voted on. My opinion is the space here will be needed for displaced classrooms during renovations

- So much of this discussion is on Sr. housing Lets Look into OTHER Proposals OTHER options FOR THIS FACILITY.
- I feel this building should return to its best purpose – a school. Children should be at the center of our community, and this building is the center.
- THE BEST IDEA THIS TOWN HAS HAD IN A LONG TIME
- Why would seniors want a playground in their front yard? Senior housing doesn't make sense if we are thinking of using this land for our town.
- Capitol campaign to fundraise for things that need to be done
- Town needs private investment too costly to renovate or bring up to code
- I am not sure senior housing will like noise from the recreation use When planning for future use think 10-20 yrs ahead.
- Music studio, recording, arts and crafts, pottery studio, coffee bar with treats – young teens/ teenage hangout Ice cream shop \*no senior housing\*
- BUILDING SHOULD BE RAIZED COMPLETELY IN FAVOR OF A PARK AND SPORTS FIELD.
- TEAR IT DOWN
- Demo.