



## Q&A #2 – NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

The Town of Newtown has received a \$15 million multi-year grant from GE for the development, construction, and operation of a community center. The Town will be issuing a series of Q&A documents to ensure the community is informed throughout the planning and building process. We welcome any questions from the public and will work to incorporate expanded questions and answers on future Q&As. Question? Please submit it here: [http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/index](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/index)

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is the vision for this facility?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newtown’s Community Center is a place where residents of every age and ability come together to participate in programs and activities that provide recreational, artistic and creative opportunities, that promote health, build self-esteem, showcase talent, encourage social interaction, and contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and supportive multi-generational community.</li> </ul>
What major ideas has the committee identified as starting points for project development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee sees this generous gift from GE as an opportunity to begin a multi-phase community center building project. The first phase would create a stand-alone facility with expanded and updated spaces for seniors, and a multi-use pool facility.</li> <li>Additional phasing could include an extension for parks and recreation programs and offices and might include uses of the NYA facility.</li> </ul>
Why is the overall project proposed in phases?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resources available do not allow for the entire project to be built at one time. The phases would occur over several years.</li> <li>Plus, it is important that phases be acted on separately so that the voters can decide at each juncture what is right and best for the community.</li> </ul>
If we build the first phase (senior spaces/and multi use pool facility) are we committing ourselves to additional phasing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No, each phase should be acted on separately. But, it is important for the <i>possibilities</i> to be known and planned for during the development of each phase. The thinking right now is to design for Phase I in such a way as to allow for (but not require) the additional phasing.</li> </ul>
Where would the resources come for additional phasing of the project, should that happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For many years, the Capital Improvement Plan has included funds for a community center and a senior center plan was added a few years ago. The gift from GE is an opportunity for Newtown to combine resources and create a comprehensive facility over a period of years at much less cost than originally thought.</li> </ul>
Where will the facility be located?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location is undecided. A feasibility study will determine if the community center can be added to the Fairfield Hill Campus. The original plan for the community center (2007) located the facility on the site of the former campus Litchfield Hall/Yale Lab buildings. It is important that this project integrate well with possible connections to the NYA.</li> </ul>

<p><b>How would Newtown residents be involved with this project?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voices of the community will be heard in the development of this facility. Information sessions will be held as soon as the project is under the authority of the Public Building and Site Commission. Plans for any facility development would progress through multiple public hearings including with the Fairfield Hills Authority, Planning and Zoning, Wetlands (if necessary), and every level of government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>When do you expect Phase I of the community center facility to be completed?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hope is to have design proceed in 2015 and construction complete in 2016.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Have the architects and construction firms been selected?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. The Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposals processes will be under the jurisdiction of Public Building and Site Commission.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What immediate 'next steps' are planned?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three important actions took place in April/May: 1) BoS, BoF, LC approved Resolution to accept the gift from GE and 2) Approved a appropriation of funds from the grant for pre-construction services, such as site analysis; and 3) assignment of the project to Public Building and Site. The next steps are to be determined by PB&amp;S.</li> </ul>