

COA&HS Letter of Support

March 19, 2024

We on the Board of Directors for the Council on Aging and Human Services support the development of the new Lincoln Community Center. The staff and volunteers at the COA&HS provide so many services across age groups, including exercise classes, lectures, help with taxes, housing, and debt relief. needed transportation, therapeutic groups as well as individual therapy, and much more.

Beautiful Bemis Hall no longer meets the needs of the COA&HS community. Built in 1880 it is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Many of the spaces are cramped, windowless, and don't offer needed privacy. There is no air conditioning on the second floor, which makes the room unbearable during summer months. And the pods on the school campus have long outlived their useful life.

Given thoughtful and careful scheduling, a new community center will provide dedicated spaces for LEAP, Parks and Recreation, and the COA&HS as well as shared spaces to be used by many other groups. The building will welcome families and help to forge intergenerational connections.

We support this necessary and exciting venture. A new community center will serve folk for generations to come and will be an amazing asset to our town.

Sally Kindleberger on behalf of the Council on Aging Board: