

**Statement of the Finance Committee**

March 18, 2024

The Finance Committee believes the CCBC has faithfully executed on its charge to design a project that meets resident expectations; accommodates the needs of the COA&HS, Parks & Rec, and LEAP; will meet the Town's Energy goals and stay within the \$25 million budget (\$24.0 million).

The Town has the financial capacity to fund the project, maintain our AAA rating, and still pursue future projects. In addition, the purpose-built approach and longevity of the proposed project is cost effective when compared to alternative options (\$15.9 million in FY25 dollars plus escalation) to renovate the Pods and Bemis Hall.

Ultimately, it is the decision of Town Residents as to their ability and willingness to pay for such a project.