

ID	Comments
1361	The idea of s swimming pool was given no mention, and despite costs, it was initially approved for the new high school ten years ago before being cut. A pool, despite costs, is a common gathering place for community members of all ages and can be provided for a fee to maintain its presence. And Madison swim teams can practice there as well. It should be listed as an option on your survey.
1363	Do not duplicate library or school related activities or functions/operations held at those location.
1364	<p>It is important that the funding for this amazing community center is not misappropriated. There is no reason to include spaces that are very much available at several other buildings in town. This center can be successful with two simple main focuses: a place for the preteens / teens of Madison to gather and participate in non-screen acitivities, and a clean, affordable, healthy food marketplace.</p> <p>Thank you so much for all your time and efforts! -a lifelong madisonite now raising her kids here</p>
1365	Would like to see kitchen/cafeteria space used for Culinary School Instruction Space and the cafe, supported above, to be run by the culinary school staff and students.
1367	As to commercial market space, I wouldnâ€™t mind a couple of food trucks around Academy school but not in the school.
1368	<p>Emphasis should be placed on providing services that are not currently provided through the Town Library, Town Campus, and Senior Center. At a time where our schools are being neglected this will be a hard sell to the families of Madison.</p>
1369	<p>I fully support the Community Center idea, provided that it can balance many needs without becoming a "lowest common denominator" that is useful to and utilized by none. I agree that some commercial market space is absolutely necessary to provide some revenue. I think meeting spaces that could be booked by civic groups, other clubs needing a place to meet (book clubs were mentioned but there could be many others) is great. But I think space dedicated for teens is sorely needed, and to be encouraged. I know it's been tried before (and failed). I was a teen in Madison in the late 80's when they built the building at 79 and Old 79 that now houses the ambulances and tried to make it be a teen center. The Arts Barn was just after my time but hasn't sustained as they might have wanted it to. I think both of those suffered from not being in the central downtown stretch. The gymnasium could accommodate some sports activities (again, offering a more central location than the town gym does) as well as offer space for some of the productions that the Arts Barn puts on, or smaller dance studios could rent for recitals, etc. Overall it should be a place that Madison residents WANT to be,.</p>
1372	<p>I am open to what ever makes the most sense financially in this community center space. I think age appropriate space for tweens and teens is a critical need in town, and a casual food space for all ages is desperately needed too. I hope the theater can be rehabilitated and a partnership with the high school will be considered since the performance space in the high school is such an embarrassment. Perhaps programs from the Arts Barn could be moved into this new space since they have a well developed program but it sounds like that building is in disrepair. I'm so excited for a space like this in Madison for me, my family and friends! Thank you for making it happen!</p>
1375	<p>I would love to see performing arts spaces emphasized, as well as flexible multi-purpose spaces (gym/rec/pay space; meeting room/reading space/library; dedicated theater/stage/recital/concert hall; gallery/retail space; etc) so that the space can grow and flex with demand.</p>
	Would love to see party rental spaceâ€™am tired of giving the Guilford Community Center my money for childrenâ€™s birthday parties.
	Childrenâ€™s activitiesâ€™lâ€™m at the Guilford community center every Saturday with my toddler for gymnastics classes. Would love to do that here.
	Work spaceâ€™I work from home 4 days a week, would love a co-working area.
	Cafe/foodâ€™I think the food trucks prove there is a need. Between Little League, the playground, and all the weekend events on the Green, lâ€™m constantly using the trucks. Would love to see food, like the Guilford marketplace has. Especially in conjunction with a co-working space.
	Otherâ€™could we bring the summer concerts inside in inclement weather? Could we extend that schedule with an indoor space? Movie nights for families?
	Happy to also support whatever the needs of the music/arts communities are.
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Did my best to provide input on the needs, but without any definitions for what the space types mean (is an ART space a commercial gallery, a place for kids to fingerprint, along the lines of the Guilford art center, a gallery, what?) the input you will get will most likely prove of limited value. Happy to discuss further in person. Madison has a great opportunity here. We just need to take advantage of it. Whatever you do, please do not sell the land!

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1379 Bob Reinhardt rwr3161@mac.com. 475-355-0583

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1382 I see this somewhat like the Kate. You can't be too many things .

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1384 I don't want a Community Center. We are already going to have one in the over priced library. Switch the Town Campus buildings to Academy and build revenue generating condos on the Town Campus property.

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There seems to be overlap in the above options. I think of this as having multi-use space, similar to the Guilford Community Center. Rooms that can be educational and meeting spaces. Rented out or for town space. An active space for parks and rec activities/adult classes, but also used for recitals, etc. I think a food vendor would be nice. Could revenue from the Food Truck permits go into the Academy building given their parking situation and the building.

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1387 Between the library & senior center and town hall, there are plenty of places people can use for meeting. I would love to see mixed use of residential and retail with so food p

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1388 Options but believe it should be an outside developer. The cost of rehabbing this building is too much on the tax payers.

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This Community Center idea must be stopped. Second only to the Griswold Airport purchase this is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

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1390 There is NO need for a Community Center in Madison. Stop the madness

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1391 This may just be wishful thinking, but try to do something(s) that will not cost the town a lot of money. Rental space is important in this regard. Preferably have most, if not all, of the space available for rental.

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1392 My choices are reflective of a mixed use application. Which is where I feel this needs to go to be successful. To the degree we can offset the lost revenue from tax base addition (all commercial)with revenue from commercial applications interspersed with community space to drive toward net neutral affect on taxes, we should. I'm sure it's not 100% possible but should still be looking for offset opportunity.

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Honestly, I'd rather see the money go towards renovating the aging schools we already have in town and to include the arts space that many are looking for in those locations. Make those spaces available after school hours to those who would like to rent the space. Seems to me that you could kill two birds with one stone that way. Create schools with state of the art equipment and spaces which would in turn attract more of the young families that our town so desperately needs. The Academy building could then be used for a variety of retail endeavors such as an indoor farmer's market that operates year round. Central Market in Lancaster, Pa. and Lexington Market in Baltimore, Md. are two great examples of town/city owned properties that operate retail space.

But, if we're to do this, then let's make sure we do it right the first time! Parking can not be an afterthought. If we want this community center we need for it to be user friendly and we can not expect the churches will allow for us to utilize their parking, just as we can not expect that they will always allow us to use their green space. In order to make this appealing to the community as a whole there needs to be a heavy focus on mixed use. My main concern is that I don't want this project to be a money pit. It needs to generate revenue and not be completely funded by the tax payer. As a town we continue to face more tax burden due to decisions that are being made at the state level and there is only so much that we as individual tax payers have to give.

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1395 I chose not to have meeting space as I think we should be utilizing the library and senior center. I do feel the need for a place where there could be children activities.

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1402 Not sure why a Community Center is needed at all in Madison. In addition to the schools, which have ample space for these things, there's also the municipal campus. This will just raise our taxes for duplicative spaces. Unless you charge rents, but they won't be enough.

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I would love to see the space used as an open concept market-type space for food, farm and retail vendors. I think a more casual environment would draw people from our town and surrounding areas and produce a heightened feeling of community. We have enough community areas that only draw a limited scope of people already in this town.

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1404 MYFS should have space for Positive Youth Development programs after school and at night. Also MYFS needs therapy space . community engagement is also key and needs a large space for Adults and youth to come together to learn and grow as a community.

Having vendors much like Guilford Market Place is key to get people in the door and interested in the programs and being involved. Warm , inviting space is important so all feel welcome. MYFS clinic has a big space issue- not enough therapy rooms and the town loses possible Commission by turning away clients. Please considered these needs

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Convert it back into a school? Otherwise, space for yoga/exercise classes, space for town campers when it's raining, town pool, fitness equipment

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I envision a marketplace/cafe that opens up onto the playing field where individuals of all generations can congregate and sip a drink, eat a pastry and watch kids playing on the fields. I loved the idea raised at the forum of having an educational series led by Seniors in our community that residents could register for. This is a perfect example of an amazing, progressive way to engage all members of our community. There are so many great activities that could be operated out of this space.

1407  
1409 The senior center just needs a name change to community center

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Should be planned to complement new community spaces that will be available in the library which has been publicized as having meeting and classroom areas. Would prioritize having a modern theater/performance space because this does not exist anywhere else in our town. Also would want to have a commercial area with shops and food.

1414 My pre-teen son would like to see chess boards, a lounge area, an arcade, a place to go after school, golf simulator, pool tables, and a juice/frozen yogurt bar.

Whatever is incorporated I would like to see something for the 21st century. High tech, lots of led screens and ability to bring in video feeds and to make presentations, charging stations, computer center, community equipment rental, and for it to be eco-friendly (green roof, rainwater collection, non-toxic materials). Outdoor gathering areas that are mindful of the historic district. I would also like to see a giant indoor playground for all ages for kids to run around and get exercise in the winter - with no fees! (I don't have those kids anymore but would have LOVED that when they were younger. Remember stay and play in old saybrook? think stay and play. A 'children's village')

Clubs and groups need places to reserve and gather. Is a community pool too much to ask for?! How about a sauna?

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Based on these questions hard to understand how the other town facilities fit in... Senior Center usage, Memorial Town Hall, schools facilities like auditoriums etc, Town campus center, town campus gym, arts barn. These need to fold not this plan as a

1422 comprehensive town plan for social and activity spaces.

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We need to attract young families with a facility that caters to their desires. If we can build a center with new activities unavailable on the Shoreline, we can attract professionals that work in New Haven, Hartford, Boston and New York. We have to think what families are looking for in 10 years, not today.

Some ideas for spaces:

1. Shared work space. Look at WeWork. Lots of folks in the area work from home and need an temporary office space and meeting conference rooms that they can rent.
2. Commercial kitchen that can be rented out. Food start ups in the area need a kitchen to run production and the town can make good money here.
3. STEM Room. Partner with local colleges to get a technology room full of robotics and STEM applications. Likely paid for by grants.
4. College Remote location: Ask UCONN or Yale to open a "remote learning" campus (room or rooms). Charge rent.
5. TV Studio is key. The internet will be all about content creation and having a studio in the town that can be rented out will be a game changer for the 21st century economy.
6. Farmers Market. Can set up booths in the hallway. Saratoga does an indoor farmers market in a space very similar to the Academy school.
7. Coffee shop.
8. Theater that can host outside production companies for shows. People need childrens entertainment and will spend money at these events in the winter.
9. Children play area. An indoor playground like McDonalds. Have a community fund raiser to raise money or find a sponsor.

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I think the retail/cafe/restaurant section will be very important to making this space work. 55,000 square feet is really large, far more than what just a community center really needs. The income-producing spaces, retail/food/some office will help not only make the building potentially cost neutral (or perhaps a positive cash flow in time, like some) but also a much more energetic and entertaining use of the space. This would make it a real draw. There are a number of easy ways to do this (I constantly search out new concepts as part of the music performer and venue consulting I do). All the concepts listed above are perfectly viable and all deserve some space. Being a music guy, I'm obviously partial that way. Some of the Fire In The Kitchen concerts that could draw as many as 300 (we sell out at 210) could be moved down there, and if there's a restaurant in the building, watch out, we're the coolest place on the shoreline. Moving the arts barn down would be nice as well, keep it lively, and save the cost of keeping the arts barn from burning down! Overall, these are all very good ideas, but I think we'll need to lease at least 50% to that retail/food/office combination to make it a big success. We also need to be flexible for the future. Sometimes that ratio may gamut or down. And, as a final thought, the septic system should really be considered. There's no place in town for visitors to go to the bathroom. Must be 10 times a summer a visitor stops me on the street and asks me. All I can do is leads them into Ashley's (they're a sponsor of the series...I can cheat a little). That's kind of bush league. Anyway, this could be unbelievably great! Charlie Shafer, 85 Woodsvale Rd.

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1425 It would be beneficial to have the non-beach dependent classes currently held at the Surf Club move to the Community Center so that the Surf Club space could be used for beach related classes and activities like coastal and marine science.

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1430 Madison tax payers can not afford a community center. The construction, maintenance/insurance and personnel cost would be a burden on Madison tax payers especially after the library project. The primary usage would be the "in town" residence with the remaining citizens paying for the costs.

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The gymnasium/stage should be kept as a multi-use space (i.e. not just a theater space or just a gym with permanent equipment). Would be great if it could be used as a polling place for elections, rental hall for parties that are larger than the Surf Club can accommodate, band performances with dancing, RJ Julia author presentations.

I support the idea of a co-working facility where office equipment and high-speed internet access can be rented on an hourly basis somewhere in the plan.

I support the idea of a small snack-coffee-tea bar somewhere in the plan. Full service dining should remain beyond the scope of this building to encourage people to frequent our established merchants in the center of Town.

I support the idea of at least two rooms outfitted with appropriate flooring and mirrors and barres for dance and martial arts classes. These rooms should be larger than the current dance room in the Town Campus Gym.

I support the idea of at least two rooms being outfitted with counters and sinks and ranges and ovens appropriate for small cooking classes.

I support the idea of at least two rooms outfitted with sinks and equipment suitable for art classes.

I support the idea of at least two rooms being appropriately soundproofed for music lessons and rehearsals.

1431 It is important to note that when provided with the most basic of suitable spaces, Beach and Recreation Department Programs are self-sustaining, bringing their own instructors and equipment/supplies at no additional cost to the Town (other than facility maintenance).

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1433 TLC needs to move out of where they are- make room for them at the community Center! Along with summer camps (like Guilford) the beach building is an embarrassment and awful for summer camp!!!!

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1438 It is vital that you keep in mind we will have a brand new library for reading and tutoring and children's programs. We have a senior center for all kinds of activities. We have the Arts Barn for dances and theater productions. We have the old Town Hall for meetings. We have the Town Campus gym. Please, please consider all of that when planning the used for Academy.

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1440 Sell condos

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1441 I'd love to see more retail and food vendors (bring on Trader Joe's!) and commercial type business in this space, attract some more people to Madison and help to stimulate the economy in the process. Also, children's program (similar to what Guilford parks and rec offers)- different things like a science class for little ones, music classes, hands on type learning ect.

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1444 I feel some of the use ideas (especially for teens or meeting spaces) overlap with the proposed library or Senior Center. As long as we are not having unused space due to certain things already existing in town.

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1445 1. The Academy School building is not an appropriate building for a community center. The Academy building is much too large to be converted into a community center for a town such as Madison. 2. None of the uses listed above are at all important because does not need a community center.

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1446 It is important that this facility not duplicate what is already available. For example, what spaces and functions will be available in the renovated library?

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1448 The public should have been presented with the cost of renovating, maintaining, and staffing a community center and the impact on their taxes before being asked to vote on options.

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1449 I don't want to fund and staff a cafeteria/kitchen with town money. This should be a small rented cafe space paid for by a private vendor. Why don't you get best practices from towns that have made this model work and generate revenue, and go that route, instead of getting mixed opinions from people who really have no idea what their opinions entail.

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1450 Whatever costs the least amount of money to create the most versatile use of space. Or just tear it down and put up a lovely pavilion and install public bathroom facilities.  
But please just do something, this conversation is getting tiresome.

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I really like the idea of having some retail space. I think a restaurant/cafe is a MUST HAVE. To be clear, this should be an independent restaurant, not a town-run cafeteria. That would be a net negative and detract from the upscale nature of our community.

Small shops could be great too.

Play space for children and families is essential for making the town enticing to families (i.e., a strong tax base). This could be an opportunity to get a franchise like Gymboree Play and Learn, Little Gym, or Rock the Spectrum in to generate revenue for the town (in addition to providing a needed play space).

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1454 In order to actually see regular and repeat use of the space I think having food or coffee retailers would be very appealing! A cafe where we could look outside onto the playground or fields with a deck would be so amazing!

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1455 We don't need anything proposed by this survey that can't be provided through private ownership. Turn this into something that benefits the community by generating tax revenue from business instead of another publicly funded center that every resident will be forced to pay for and few will actually use.

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1457 Spaces should be configured to all for multi-uses

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1464 Any space that would require a change in zoning is not something I support.

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1465 Waste of money.

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1470 I feel the building and upkeep of a community center is not at all in the best interest of the town. How will this be paid for? How much will our taxes go up? How many people will use it realistically. We are already spending a large sum on a new library, in a time when library usage is diminishing. It's time we really start thinking about the future of our town and stop spending large sums of money. Susan Wagner

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1476 This building needs to bring in revenue and be self-supporting. I am not in favor of paying more taxes to support it.

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1479 WANTS & NEEDS. Utilize the spaces, buildings, fields & land we already have in our coffers. Who's going to pay for this today & tomorrow (staff, maintenance etc)?

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1480 This "community center" should be self sufficient and not require added taxpayer dollars to run.

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It's just not possible to have a dedicated space for every demographic in this town (teens, pre-teens, pre-schoolers, etc.). Spaces should be able to be used for various purposes, so that if there's a teen group that wants to meet, they can schedule that, and that same room can be used for a book club or a meditation group. I certainly hope people aren't going to expect separate spaces for all of these groups/purposes, as this will result in rooms being under-used. Sharing is caring.

Also, we have a gym at the town campus as well as gyms at the schools. We don't need another gym. I'm assuming there is plenty of space for board and committee meetings at the town campus. Business meetings should not take place at a community center -- that would make the space unavailable for community needs.

Some of the items on this list are confusing. What is a "demonstration" space (under arts)? Why is there an "exhibition space" under theater? Can't instructional spaces be used for many different purposes? Can't a theater be used for musical performances?

I hope we're not going to insist there be a reading space and a quiet space when the library is just down the street. Again, if someone wants to book a room for a meditation class or practice, they should be able to do so, but to dedicate a room for specific purposes

1487 like this is self-defeating.

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50 meter swimming pool would bring a ton of people for local businesses during swim meets and lessons. No other large pool in area

1493 for 50 meter swim meets.

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I'd like to see the community center be a cultural and educational center of our community where you could go to concerts, see plays from the high school or similar groups, and where especially children could go to take classes in art, sports, music, etc. I'd love for it to be a mix of what the community center in Guilford is like and the Kathryn Hepburn center in Old Saybrook "a place

1497 where we can come together as a community and learn and enjoy time together.

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I would like to see an inside walking trail laid out for inside walking. Some type of plan formulated as to time and areas to be used.

1500 Sort of like mall walkers. Also don't see need for any more retail space as the center can't stay filled as it is. Thank you.

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Thank you to the Academy Community Center ad hoc Committee for your efforts to turn that historic building into a gem for our town!

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1502 My question for meeting spaces-will the new library have designated spaces for this purpose?

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1503 Marketplace marketplace! Model example : <http://oxbowpublicmarket.com>

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Please save the crooked tree next to the road by the sidewalk. Just about every Little League player or his or her sibling have watched sitting in that tree! Can it be saved? Tar the injured spots? It's Older than me! I sat on it watching my brother! It's over 61 years old! Write a story on it Suzi Page! How's about solar motion light on areas where kids sneak in!? How deter them doing that

Let's ask for donations to do the basketball court! Not fancy. Let's fill in the holes!

Redo hop scotch, four square area! Make that fun for toddlers!

Redo the map!

Anything that can bring in revenue should be priority. Poll organizations in town.

Scot at Beach and Rec should Supply excel spreadsheet of customers who rent spaces on last 2 years. Approach these customers!

ALH always rents their space to Hispanics who have those fancy 15 year birthday parties. Maybe advertise! Create Facebook site for the HUH. HAND ACADEMY HUB.

Don't take down walls. Do in stages! Where is the old H from the gym stage?

Save the gym! Have wrestling practice there!

Is The old flooring underneath the carpet? If it is save it! Get rid of the carpet. The old coat rooms were terrific!

Save the old ticket booth!

Create naming opportunities!

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This center should be a lifelong opportunity for multigenerations. It should have leased cafe and the beach and rec should be housed within the building which would be an asset to all of the community for various programs. I believe we should also have a room that we can have computer and robotic technology conference and competitions.. Have programs that generate revenue to offset

1510 operating cost yet add to entertainment and excitement to the downtown area.

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I feel that Madison deserves a center of Art, Music, Theater, meeting rooms, gathering areas for teens to hang out in; friendly, welcoming places for all ages to convene. Included should be spaces for instruction, group and club meetings, exhibition

1513 areas, practice rooms, and performance stages. I wholeheartedly thank this ad hoc committee for doing this work for our community!

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- 1514 I would love to see the marketplace included.
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- 1515 A large theater should be at another venue in town with better parking and facilities.  
Please reach out to regional theaters for guidance and advice on their funding pillars:  
Westport Country Play House, Ridgefield Play House, Yale Repertory, The Kate, Ivoryton Playhouse, Saratoga Performing Arts, Fishers
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- 1521 Center at Bard College, Troy Music Hall
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- 1522 Priorities are preteens and teens arts, activity, social, and sports spaces plus healthy affordable food. We have Senior Ctr and Library for everything else.
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- 1524 A dedicated indoor play space for kids approximately ages 2 - 8 is crucial. It is cold for four months and there are no good spaces in town for kids to just play. Make this a priority and people will want to move here.
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- 1528 Waste of money!
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- 1531 Would be great to have a main floor microbrew pub aka place for adults to gather and enjoy a casual fun evening with local friends.
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- 1540 the highest priority should be pre teens and teens. They have nowhere to go in town.
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- 1541 No community center. No tax increase.
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- 1545 Don't crossover functionality with the new library spaces.
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- 1549 Indoor playscape or indoor gym for young kids!!!
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- 1550 Need to generate revenue as well as provide community space
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- 1552 I am not a supporter of a community center in Madison at this time. Our school infrastructure is in need of revitalization. Tax revenue is not sufficient to do both.
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- 1554 Space needs should be coordinated with what is available in the other facilities in town (Scranton Library, Arts Barn, Senior Center, etc.) and must include some retail/rental element to offset associated costs. No need to create another "Taj Mahal" like the Senior Center which seems under-utilized.
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- 1560 Definitely need a space for young kids like a mini play place during the winter. Would love to be able to spend a day there with playing, doing a class, buying some lunch all on the premise. Would be nice having a little craft store of local artists there and maybe a mini market for grocery essentials.
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- 1564 The community center is an awesome idea but only if the town can create a mix of use that DOES NOT INCREASE TAXES! Town must use its assets for increasing the tax base...not increasing taxes.
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- 1566 There should be enough revenue generating functions in the space so as to not burden tax payers.
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- 1567 Whatever we create it must generate some revenue to offset operation costs and taxes.
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- 1568 It should be designed after the Guilford center and what they offer for both the youth and all ages of the community. And you should turn town campus back into a elementary school. It's a newer building and it's next to the police station. It's a win win.
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- 1571 I think we should tear it down with some form of memorial facade and just have town fields. The savings could be put back into our schools which are a much higher priority.
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- Bottom line: It seems it will be important to clarify what resources already exist, or will exist, in town (new library, Arts Barn, Senior Center, gym at Town Campus) and how a community center could enhance those things. (For instance, we don't need more commission rooms, a gym, or tv studios since all are at Town Campus) I have noticed, however, that for students, it does make a huge difference to have a downtown location. Pre-teens and high-school students prefer being downtown.  
I think it would also help to compare other towns' offerings. Especially, what features in Guilford's community building are especially popular.  
I will add, I have always found it hard to find spaces to hold meetings and gather with groups.
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- 1572 There should be no commercial or business areas in this building. This should be for a community center run by the Beach and Rec. dept.
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- 1576 Art center! Income to town. Make Madison a destination for the arts . With our theater, rjs,school of rock
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The building needs to have community space for education programs for our youth and adult population but just as important, there needs to be commercial uses that will draw people not only from Madison but surrounding towns that will help defray the costs of the building. This building needs to be a destination. There should also be a huge focus on STEM learning for our youth's in particular. Classes on coding, software development, bio-sciences, mathematics, engineering, investing, personal finance, starting a business etc should be the focus, not music and the arts. There are plenty of music schools and art schools around the shoreline but nothing focusing on STEM. This could be a destination for not just Madison residents, but surrounding communities as well. Embrace STEM and people will flock to Madison. A restaurant, marketplace, retail stores, etc will also help draw people in.

1579 Book club and tutoring meeting belongs in library; public, boards, and commissions meetings belong in Town Hall; sports belong in school gym/fields; business meeting in office buildings; rental space belongs in private businesses such as "CT Sportsplex" in North Branford or maybe open up Arts Barn as rental facility.

1580 Charging rent to use a community center is a contradiction, somewhat like tolls.

1581 Adult Ed classes ,an indoor winter farmers market, a teen center

1582 I've read the whole survey and every single one of the options can be redirected to existing sources such as the Arts Barn, the town hall meeting rooms, the senior center, the surf club, the library, etc. I am absolutely against this for the simple reason that it is a financial burden and the decreasing population in town cannot support all of these ideas.

1583 Obviously I'm very disappointed with the direction of the town in spending so much money for a space that really isn't needed. We are trying to find reasons to build up the space to justify the direction.

1587 A market space can help supply funding, just as long as it does not take over community center intent.

1588 Arts, Education, Theater, and a Food Vendor or Cafe option are most important to the families and will draw more families to Madison.

1593 We have educational spaces and lots of meeting rooms. Please utilize this space to drive commercial revenue with rental office space, food court, pay for play areas like batting cages, etc and take some of the burden off of the taxpayers

1595 The town does NOT need a Community Center. This is a huge waste of tax payer dollars! We already have a library, senior center, arts barn, and gym complex. If it's going to be retail, commercial or office space - sell it! That way the town doesn't need to spend more money renovating and managing the property.

This building should not be used to provide space for people to make a profit for themselves - tutoring private students, selling of products for personal gain, seminars for selling retirement plans, etc.

1598 I am opposed to a market place here. The overseeing of such a place should not be part of a Town government. We should not be in a profit-making enterprise!

1599 Renovate the gym for DHHS use (Indoor winter sports so they don't have to share with Polson) and renovate theatre for our theatre groups. No more cafeteria. Use front end of the building for food court and small retail. Use some of the other space as Rec area for teens.

1600 It is very hard to make sense out of these check a box surveys. The things I felt strongly about were NO to a quiet reflection space as we live in a town full of quiet reflective spaces to spend time alone, and the need for commercial market space. I think a community center is a good idea, but the size of that building, will require some income in addition to tax dollars to maintain it, and quite frankly, to get people to come to it. People love spending money on food, and if that gets them to come to the community center, help fund it, and meet their neighbors, discover what is there, I am all for it.

This community center needs to be self supporting. We do not need another sports outlet.

1603 This needs to be a creative space that also makes money to sustain its operation.

1604 I strongly believe we should move ALL town campus offices, gym, preschool and all arts barn programs to the community center so the town can explore commercial or condos at the town campus location. Police and the new ball field can stay but the town needs to unload some capital before taking on a community center and the school upgrades. Moving town campus to central location would make sense and it is paramount that a marketplace be incorporated to revitalize our downtown area and offset operating costs! Thanks!

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I think the Marketplace idea is the most important to be considered. Between the Town Campus, Surf Club, Library renovation and the schools there is ample space for performances, meetings, book clubs, exercise, gym, etc but one thing Madison is lacking is food, spaces to congregate for families and small kids, and a bookend to businesses in town. As a parent of small kids one of my biggest complaints in Madison is there are almost no places to go before 10am and there are very few kid friendly destinations in Madison. Everyone I know spends more time and money in Guilford because their Marketplace, Java Hut, community center are kid friendly, open early and fun. The Guilford Rec department hosts tons of little kid programs in their space and they are extremely popular with non-guilford residents. I would love to see Madison invest more in family friendly, non boutique or elderly catering businesses to make this a more desirable place to live. I would strongly suggest checking out the Guilford Rec center and business hours/offerings and see how well run they are. Likewise The Marketplace in Guilford and Chester are always busy and make great informal meeting

1605 spaces, something Madison is lacking.

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I'd love to see a space similar to the Guilford Rec Center, but with an area for high-end food vendors. No disgusting mall chains like subway, sbarro, etc. But maybe a small coffee shop or deli where people can relax/meet/study with options for food within the building.

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Many of these spaces could be multi-purpose rooms complete rolling tables, a white board, and projector. This would serve business, education, and community meeting needs well without leaving certain rooms vacant. Perhaps there could be variety in capacity rather than purpose for more general rooms.

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I would love for the community center to be very focused around the children of our town. From babies to teenagers, I'd love to see a space where they can learn, play and be a part of the community as they grow.

Kid friendly retail spaces, like a coffee shop with a play area, would be great for the mom's of younger than school age students. I'd also love to see a gym space and toddler gymnastics classes like what Guilford has at their community center.

An indoor rockwall and some other community fitness equipment would be great too. In addition, I think it would be great if some other youth focused classes were available like Let's get messy (a toddler sensory class at the Guilford community center) and mommy and me yoga.

What I wasn't sure about is the meeting space/art and music needs. I put no option for most of those questions because I don't know what's available on town campus, at the senior center, and at the arts barn.

As the committee continues to solicit feedback, it would be really helpful if they publish something about the existing meeting spaces, auditoriums etc. so that the community understands what's already out there and can thus access whether or not those things would truly be assets to the community center.

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1612 Thank you for all you work on this!!

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Some of these areas can be used as exhibition space in both theater music or educational areas. It is important to create a

1614 community space for all ages while providing space for small businesses

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We have most of these spaces around town. I'm looking forward to a gathering place for young children and new families. We go to the Guilford community center for gymnastics. It would be nice to have that central gathering area in Madison.

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1621 Move town offices to the building.

1622 Not sure how this translates to specifics.

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I think a town indoor swimming pool built where the addition (gym) now exists would be great. The swim team could use it as well as Seniors and young families year round.

I also feel we should not build or provide similar spaces that are already planned for the new library. Does the committee know what's coming? They should compliment each other and cover a broader range of citizens desires.

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1624 A waste of tax dollars.

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Looking forward to improving our town and offering a variety of activities!!!

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Indoor farmers market space would be nice. Additional meeting spaces is very much needed in Madison.

I would like to see any outdoor space to contain gardens that may have some educational value to the community and fit with the time period of the building.

I don't think the town needs any additional sports areas since the town campus has gym space except an upgraded exercise room with updated equipment.

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Some of my answers in the negative (exercise space) are because of the availability of space at Town Campus. If those spaces were to close then I would support exercise space in this place, or at least flexible space that could accommodate. Dance space for things like

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contra dance or square dances would be fun!!

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Optimizing the use of current town facilities (new library, surf club, senior center, town campus and town hall) and determining the persistent unmet needs would help guide successful planning.

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another Madison mega-millions project? really? enough of this. there are "projects" scattered all over town that were poorly planned, badly executed, and underfunded.....and remain unfinished to this day (salt meadow park, greenway trail to nowhere, strong field, downtown, library, ad nuseum. enough of this foolishness! I would bet anything that this feel-good foolishness will become another expensive embarrassment. and who is going to pay for all of this? especially the operating costs? the state has just announced one billion in new taxes, plus tolls. we don't need our taxes here in town to go up as well. this whole thing needs to be

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1640 stopped in its tracks, it is untenable.

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1646 Keep field space for community

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It would be nice to have a small makerspace. It could be membership based and feature 3-d printers, a laser cutter and STEM programs.

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I hope the committee will talk with boards of other successful community centers and learn from their successes and mistakes. I also hope space will not be redundant with other underused or available for the same purpose spaces in town,

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Many of the book and education related questions: answered as unimportant because these are readily available at the library.

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1650 Especially our new fancy one....

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I rated many of these as not important- not because I don't believe our town needs these types of spaces- but because I believe we're on track for getting them in other buildings. For example, once complete the Library will have, meeting spaces for book clubs, events, civic club meetings, art exhibitions, tutoring, and children/teen programming. I wish the town/state was in a position to do it all- but we have to make choices and doubling up on things seems an inefficient way to do it. If anything goes into that building I think it should be under the community marketplace- something that will bring people in to spend money in town.

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1655 The point is, to not change the character of the Town. Also, the town has to make sure someone doesn't make it their living space.

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1656 A cool place for teens to hang out on a Friday or Saturday night would be great.

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The biggest priority to me is preschool and school age programs. We go to Guilford regularly for their programs (Twos without You, Preschool Camp, Gymnastics, etc)

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spend leisure time throughout the year. I am the father of a toddler with another on the way, and my wife and I (along with all of our friends in town) go to Guilford for everything. Young kid classes, family restaurants, leisurely cafes with space for kids to run around - I could keep going. There are no community oriented places in Madison to go spend a leisurely hour or two other than the summer months at the beach parks.

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The model I propose would be something very similar to the Boston Public Market (on a much smaller scale) which has been a wild success in Boston where I recently moved from. It is a perfect blend of local vendors and counter service restaurants where people of all ages spend a ton of time.

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I envision the first floor of Academy being this type of lively marketplace / restaurant with a lot of open space seating. A microbrewery in this space would be terrific in my eyes because you'd have families come in for an activity and the parents would actually want to spend a good chunk of time there! A family type of microbrewery doesn't have many suitable locations in Madison.

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The floors above ground level would be a perfect space for a variety of activities where there could be a focus on young kid activities (classes that the Guilford Rec department offers in abundance).

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I am extremely confident that this would be a commercial success. Madison is a well off town but the commercial center of the town has almost no establishments that are attractive to families with children. At the Halloween Trunk or Treat it was shocking to see how many young families from town were there - but you know where they all go to spend their money for leisure? Guilford! Why would the town not use this perfect space to build something vibrant to keep all the young families and their spending in town??? I am so confident that this would be a success that I would be interested managing / owning the marketplace operations for something like this.

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There are already ample meeting spaces that sit empty most of the time and gym space at the schools - why would we need more??

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1660 In short, Madison needs a community space that brings some life to the town! The town is at serious risk of losing families to other

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1661 Thanks to everyone working to get Madison back & happening again

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1667 Many child-related features should be able to take place at the new library

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- I'm ok with a portion of the sq ft being set aside for retail, but the revenue has to be worth the space it takes up and related to the activities/uses of the space. I am concerned that it may not happen beyond food vendors. Basketball court and play set can be
- 1671 moved toward the senior center to make for parking. This is exciting. There could be many activities going on simultaneously.
- 
- Although several suggestions have been made to create this new space into something encompassing all of the above, I would still like to keep alive the plausibility of moving part or all of our town campus services over time to this newly renovated space to revitalize our downtown area and then SELL the entire town campus property adjacent to the Police Station for the revenue it will
- 1672 take to upgrade the Academy building.
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- Adding a pool would be an idea so that we don't all have to become members of the YMCA. And we could rent it out to other
- 1674 school districts for competitions.
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- Mold issues and bringing building up to code...Including handicap ramps and elevator may bring costs...may bring costs of project out of reach.
- 1679 Town is in need of reasonably priced places to eat so perhaps this building can include food venue for families
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- The community center should include everyone, with a heavier focus on families through teens and young adults. A safe space for youth to gather and learn. And a space for local artists and entrepreneurs to display/rent to present their products. A cafe and/or market would keep the center active all day and avoid a deadness in the building. With very little commercial businesses on that end on town, a market or cafe would keep things lively. The food trucks should be allowed to continue operations as well. The activity will
- 1682 keep crime and mischief down if there is a place with the lights on and patrons.
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- Renting space has gotten expensive in other Madison spaces and most of these options should be available in our new library. Those
- 1683 not, are available at town campus.
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- 1685 I feel that we need to put some focus into practical spaces that can be rented to bring in some revenue for this facility
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- we have ample space for youth activities; we will have a remodeled library; we have ample eateries in town; we need space for theater & musical productions; adult classes & demonstrations not well covered by Senior Center or Adult Ed. Any conference rooms should be rented out at a cost to businesses and organizations using them for programs and meetings to help defray cleaning, maintenance, damage. Landscaped outdoor space for quiet enjoyment. We have sufficient sports fields. NO
- 1687 CONDO/HOUSING use.
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- 1690 WHY does Guilford have a Community Center and Madison does not?!
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- I moved away 18 years ago and the Academy School had just been closed. My daughter and son both attended school there. We moved back 2 years ago and were shocked to learn that Academy had been vacant for all these years. My husband and I could not believe it! Please bring back life to Academy which is the heart of Madison. A Community Center would revitalize the downtown and would be wonderful for all of us to enjoy! Thank you for all your hard work.
- 1691
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- Looking forward to hearing about the progress! As a community center I think the focus should be on providing space and resources to draw participation for arts, music, theater, talks, conference rooms, recording and video studios, etc. and not duplicate things that can be already provided at other town facilities, the upgraded library, our schools, and local businesses (the exception being possibly great food service and culinary learning). I would be ok with some degree of retail and business space, but \*not\* to get carried away
- 1695 with that - don't turn the building into a mini-mall!
- 1696
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- A community center is not needed in the town of Madison we have enough spaces elsewhere to do meetings other buildings in the town are not fully being used The academy Street School should be sold to a private builder we should not spend any more time or money on the academy Street School we need to use the money to fix our roads and other schools that need more repairs done to
- 1697 them
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- 1699 It would be helpful if the space was multigenerational.
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- Need to make this as financially neutral as possible. so need to prioritize rental space ideas. Need to move all arts barn activities to new center and close/rent arts barn so we do not have to support two places that have same purpose. I would still like to see the town office moved into the space along with community center space as the building is big enough for both. The Great Blue survey never gave us a choice to combine the two. I think if we can combine the two it would be the perfect mix as we could sell /rent old
- 1701 town office building /land. Therefore it would take that off maintenance budget and hopefully add something to revenue base.
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As I was against the idea of turning Academy School into a Community Center, I believe that the town should be fiscally responsible for its usage. In my opinion the town should look at this building and largely consider ways that it could be a money maker for Town instead of costing the town money to maintain it. Case in point....Salt Meadow Park. It costs the Town \$\$\$ to maintain it while the student population continues to decline and fewer fields are needed. It largely sits idle.

I hope that the Academy School Community Center doesn't have the same fate. Heating bills alone for that building will be high. It's a large building, fill it with renters who are willing to pay for the space.

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We cannot afford to build a Comm Ctr in town. We have plenty of rooms available for every conceivable need ~ The new library, Sr. Ctr., Surf Club, Memorial Town Hall, Arts Barn & gymnasium at Town Campus should be plenty of space for this small town's needs. People tried to run a "market" in the modern brick building next to Webster Bank, and no-one supported it!! I think you should tear down Academy School and make a park or sell it to a developer and bring some money into town

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My intended goal in rankings is to support a variety of programming and activities for a dynamic multi-functional center, which is compatible with existing facilities (if utilized to their full capacities) and does not compete with our commercial district. If operated by a branch of Beach & Rec or separate department, a full calendar should include leased and licensed spaces for use by local organizations and private vendors - revenues from which can offset operating costs. It is essential to bring families and youth to town to enjoy the variety of programming and activities available at such a community center and bolster our private sector (east of Rt 79). Renovation and adaptive reuse of the existing school building (including the interior layout), will achieve this purpose and cap renovation costs. A commercial enterprise in the community center presents zoning challenges, operational challenges, expanded costs (septic, parking, insurance) and competes with our retail center. A multi-functional community center is consistent with the historic district - church, state, education and public gathering - and the residential neighborhood that surrounds it.

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1st and foremost how do you verify I'm a resident filling out this survey?? We've used other surveys in past for other town decisions and there was no ability to verify the person filling out the survey was a town resident of Madison.

2nd We have a paid Selectman and in addition a paid Town Planner???? Why do we need both if there is no leadership. Since the town leadership does not offer sensible direction a small group of emotional and aspirational individuals drive proposals that are unrealistic. Examples- Purchase of Griswold Airport most recently where we spent 10 million for 2 soccer fields we did not need. We could have had a 55+ community which was a more realistic concept. Our population is getting older, not younger. Somehow the leadership has not offered honesty and direction on this proposal. We can't keep raising taxes on the home owners to pay for these big ticket purchases. The leadership should eliminate the choice of spending 14-15million dollars on a proposal that is unrealistic and show some leadership and that doesn't include how much it would cost in operating expenses. Our leadership still hasn't completed the downtown project and the library will be sure to have overrun costs. The leadership in town is going to tax people out of town. We should either tear down the building and build a park or sell the property to a developer who is qualified and has sensible plan for housing use. We do not need more retail space. Current retailers go out of business in town on a regular basis. We do not need a market since we've already experienced markets that have failed in town. Example was the building where the Verizon store is located. Someone tried a market and a tea house. It failed. There is no sustained support for this concept.

1708 NO TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER. SHOULD BE PRIVATELY DEVELOPED

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1710 Sell the property!

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Restore Memorial Hall to it's pre-1938 condition - that's your Community Center

Restore Academy School to it's pre-1935 condition - demolish the rest - that's your meeting areas

Throw down some grass seed and call it a day. The fields and land will be a park in the future.

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1719 Make it into a roller rink.

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1720 Would love to see dance classes for adults here!

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I would like to see this space used mostly to promote activities that bring the community together: art exhibitions, theatrical performance spaces, exercise class space, cafes, a small amount of commercial space and small food market, a coworking space could also be beneficial. I feel that between the new Scranton library and the new Academy center, roles should be evenly distributed for educational purposes (book clubs, tutoring centers, etc.) but am not super familiar with the planned layout for Scranton. As a young person who would like to move back to Madison further into adulthood, I am hoping this center brings, above all, diversity to the town, something I'm afraid we're seriously lacking.

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I feel it should mostly revolve around kids, a cool place to hang, play sports on rainy days, cafe/snack/ice cream. Also a good theater and places for classes and things can coexist...loungue area = art exhibit. I think meeting space that can be used for variety maybe with small fee to help offset costs, some vendor rental space and room for community events like dances where fees can be charged would also help to offset operating costs. Maybe a game room with pool tables etc. Maybe a place for parents while kids go crazy.

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We love the Guilford Community Center. Love that they have rooms that dancers in our community can go practice dance and yoga. Wood spring floors with a wall of mirrors would be terrific for dance rooms. Love that the Guilford Community Center that the lounge areas are multi-purpose - used for craft shows, reading and relaxation room, exhibiting artwork, social, etc. Would love a game room with pool tables. The staff in Guilford is also very friendly and welcoming. We have been going to classes there for more than 10 years and love the space and atmosphere. Please get the right staff and review them regularly. Should be welcoming and inviting so our community enjoys it. Sometimes beach and rec and surf club staff is rude. We don't want that. It should be a friendly and welcoming place. Guilford has great staff. We can learn a lot from Guilford Community Center. It works! Thank you!

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Try not to duplicate services at schools and library or in retail sector.

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1727 A demonstration Kitchen, not to serve food but to teach would be desirable.

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