



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW EAST HAMPTON SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT PROGRESSES

Town Board Selects Architectural Firm; Approves \$1.8 Million Bond Issue for Project Design and Engineering

New center will be built on seven-acre site on Abraham's Path in Amagansett

The East Hampton Town Board voted unanimously today to engage R2 Architecture to design the town's new Senior Community Center.

The firm is a woman-owned joint venture between Ross Barney Architects of Chicago and Ronnette Riley Architect, a NYC-based firm with a branch office in Bridgehampton. Ms. Riley's firm has completed a number of projects in local towns and throughout Suffolk County. The R2 team has designed a number of public, commercial, and civic spaces including the University of Chicago Child Development Center, the Times Square Visitor Center, various senior and community centers, and numerous New York City retail stores and cafes.

Fifteen firms responded to a call by the town in June for proposals. A selection committee reviewed the submissions, interviewed the four top firms, held a second interview with each of the top two contenders, and selected R2 Architecture as the finalist. The recommendation was presented to the town board at its work session on Dec. 13.

R2 Architecture was selected based on several distinctive qualities, including experience in creating innovative public buildings and in designing and building net-zero, energy-efficient facilities, and on the firm's submission of a proposed design that would fulfill community needs while keeping within the character of East Hampton Town.

The firm also presented a plan for soliciting and incorporating community input in finalizing the design, including from stakeholder and advisory groups. A community engagement plan will be developed and implemented in January, 2022.

The Town purchased the seven-acre Amagansett property for the new center, at 403 Abraham's Path, just north of the LIRR tracks, for \$1.63 million. The easily accessible, centrally located site will allow for a building that can accommodate enhanced wellness, nutrition, day care, and enrichment programs, as well as a permanent home for the East Hampton Food Pantry.

After the design phase, anticipated to extend through next summer, construction could begin in early fall next year, with a completion date in early 2024.

Information regarding the project, including the Dec. 13 recommendation and presentation, and R2 Architecture's proposal, can be found at <https://ehamptonny.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/755>