College Town: QCC to look for new site in Southbridge

By Scott O'Connell

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SOUTHBRIDGE – Quinsigamond Community College will look for a new home in Southbridge, because the school's executive committee voted earlier this month not to renew its lease of 5 Optical Drive.

According to college spokesman Josh Martin, Quinsigamond, whose main campus is in Worcester, is committed to remaining in Southbridge.

"We are working with Southbridge and regional leaders to develop a plan that will strengthen the K-12 system, create educational pathways responding to workforce development needs in the community, and expand and solidify the relationship between QCC and Southbridge," he said.

College leaders decided to leave the Optical Drive site, which the college has occupied for the past decade, because they wanted to move to a space "that allows us to be closer to students and the community," Martin said.

According to the minutes of the college trustees' meeting earlier this month, the college has had meetings with Southbridge High School about moving classes there, and has also explored creating a "community learning hub" at another location.

Quinsigamond is also communicating with lawmakers about the "importance of looking for a better solution for Southbridge," the minutes say.