



Town of Nantucket Capital Program Committee December 7, 2023

Attending Members:	Stephen Welch, Chair, Peter Kaizer, Vice Chair, Christy Kickham, Jill Vieth, Barry Rector, Brooke Mohr, Howard Matz
Staff:	Susan Carmel, Assistant Finance Director
Absent	

The Capital Program Committee meeting on December 7, 2023, discussed various projects and funding allocations. Key points included the approval of the FY25 capital requests, with specific items like the airport AIP, hazard mitigation plan, and ground mapping radar being highlighted. The committee debated the importance of coastal resiliency funding, ultimately deciding to include it in the preliminary recommendation. They also reviewed the DPW mechanic's truck replacement, deciding to seek additional information before making a final decision. The Climate Action Plan was discussed, with concerns about its broad scope and potential financial strain. The meeting concluded with a focus on finalizing recommendations for the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Capital Program Committee discussed the feasibility and cost of various projects, including a \$21 million coastal resiliency bridge project, which Christy Kickham supported for its long-term benefits. Stephen Welch questioned the project's financial viability. The committee also debated the necessity of a \$10 million sewer project for Baxter Road, with Brooke Mohr emphasizing its legal and practical importance. They considered a \$1.2 million design investment for a 2035 target project. The committee decided to move forward with the sewer project and requested further information on the Baxter Road project's legal requirements and betterment potential. They unanimously recommended the motion to reconsider the 2022 budget. Concerns were raised about the decommissioning of fire cisterns and their role in stormwater management. Stephen Welch emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach. They also discussed enhancing Newtown Road with granite curbs and traffic slowing devices. The committee agreed to finalize the dump truck and public safety building projects by the next meeting. They also considered the DPW facility location at Shadbush, noting ongoing litigation and the potential use of Kevlar netting technology. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023.

Action Items

- [] Follow up with DPW on the frequency of use for the new 10-wheel dump truck request.
- [] Revisit the vote on moving the Baxter Road sewer design project to FY26.
- [] Provide the list of items still requiring further discussion to the committee members.
- [] Schedule a follow-up meeting before December 14th to finalize recommendations on outstanding items.

Capital Program Committee Meeting Introduction and Initial Setup

- Stephen Welch calls the meeting to order, noting the audio and video recording, and mentions the meeting is being displayed on YouTube.
- Motion made by Christy Kickham to approve the agenda. Approval of the agenda is unanimous, and public comment is moved to the next item.
- Stephen Welch outlines the plan to discuss FY25 capital requests, solid waste, and updates from liaisons to the solid waste enterprise fund.

Review of Airport and Other Projects

- Stephen Welch discusses the timely submission of AIP cost projects, including the ramp, high mass lights, and runway 6-24 repair.
- Projects switched departments, such as the hazard mitigation plan, Folgers Marsh bridge, and the ground mapping radar.
- Susan Carmel confirms the ground mapping radar will not change management, and Howard Matz updates on solid waste email exchanges.
- Stephen Welch explains the process of preliminary recommendations and the importance of standard deviation in determining project relevance.

Discussion on Specific Projects and Prioritization

- Stephen Welch reviews items outside the standard deviation, including the police auxiliary building and sewer facility supplemental.
- The committee discusses the importance of discussing items within the standard deviation and the process for preliminary recommendations.
- Stephen Welch highlights items in maroon for further review, including the seasonal employee housing and ground mapping radar.
- The committee debates the importance of coastal resiliency and the need for proactive planning and grant applications.

Clarification on Project Details and Voting Procedures

- Stephen Welch explains the need for clarity on project details and the importance of timely decision-making.
- The committee discusses the importance of coastal resiliency and the potential for future projects to fall under various departments.
- Howard Matz and Brooke Mohr provide examples of coastal resiliency funding and the importance of planning for future storms.
- Stephen Welch suggests a vote on coastal resiliency to provide clarity to the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Finalizing Project Recommendations and Addressing Concerns

- The committee discusses the importance of prioritizing projects and the need for further information on certain items.

- Stephen Welch emphasizes the need for flexibility in the review process to ensure timely completion of the committee's work.
- The committee debates the importance of specific projects, such as EV charging stations and ground mapping radar, and decides to annotate certain items for further review.

Discussion on Coastal Resiliency Projects

- Stephen Welch questions the feasibility of a \$21 million bridge project, suggesting it is not cost-effective and proposes alternative solutions.
- Christy Kickham supports the project, emphasizing its importance for coastal resiliency and its potential long-term benefits.
- Jill Vieth questions the priority of the project compared to other needs, particularly in the context of the coastal resiliency plan.
- Christy Kickham argues that the project is a vital roadway for public safety and should be addressed sooner rather than later.
- Motion to include coastal resiliency project in preliminary recommendation. Motion made by Howard Matz, seconded by Christy Kickham. Passed unanimously.

Debate on Project Prioritization

- Howard Matz emphasizes the need to start coastal resiliency projects to avoid future cliffs in funding.
- Peter Kaizer and Brooke Mohr discuss the importance of prioritizing projects based on their urgency and impact.
- Stephen Welch highlights the need for consistent math and community understanding of project costs.
- Christy Kickham and others discuss the importance of pre-planning for coastal resiliency to avoid higher costs in the future.

Concerns About Project Costs and Community Perception

- Stephen Welch raises concerns about the astronomical costs of some projects and the need for an educational program to help the community understand these costs.
- Brooke Mohr mentions that a \$1.2 million investment in design does not necessarily mean a \$21 million expenditure immediately.
- Howard Matz and others discuss the importance of starting projects now to avoid higher costs in the future.
- Stephen Welch suggests that hiring local engineers could be a more cost-effective solution than contracting out.

Discussion on Environmental Justice and Grant Applications

- Brooke Mohr emphasizes the importance of environmental justice assessments for grant applications and community support.
- Stephen Welch and others discuss the need for clear and consistent information on project costs and benefits.

- Christy Kickham and others discuss the importance of pre-planning and scheduling for coastal resiliency projects.
- Peter Kaizer suggests a motion to move certain projects to out years based on their priority and current budget constraints.
- Motion to move Folger's Marsh bridge project to outyear by Peter Kaizer. Passed 6-1. Christy Kickham opposed.
- Motion to include environmental justice assessment in preliminary recommendation made by Peter Kaizer. Passed unanimously.
- Motion to move mill and overlay parking lots at airport into current year. Passed unanimously.
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Sewer Projects and Legal Requirements

- Brooke Mohr discusses the legal requirements and potential precedents for sewer projects, particularly the Baxter Road sewer design.
- Howard Matz and others discuss the importance of having a tight contract for landfill operations to ensure town control and transparency.
- Stephen Welch raises concerns about the potential legal and financial implications of certain projects.
- Christy Kickham and others discuss the importance of having a clear understanding of project costs and benefits before making recommendations.
- Motion to reconsider Baxter Road sewer design vote. Passed unanimously.
- Motion to move Baxter Road sewer design to FY26. Passed unanimously.
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Final Recommendations and Next Steps

- Stephen Welch suggests revisiting certain votes based on new information and discussions.
- Peter Kaizer and others discuss the importance of having clear and consistent information on project costs and benefits.
- Brooke Mohr emphasizes the need for a tight contract for landfill operations to ensure town control and transparency.
- Stephen Welch and others discuss the importance of having a clear understanding of project costs and benefits before making recommendations.

Discussion on Fire Cisterns and Stormwater Management

- Stephen Welch raises concerns about the lack of an integrated approach to stormwater management and the decommissioning of fire cisterns.
- Christy Kickham questions the historical use of fire cisterns for stormwater management.

- Stephen Welch emphasizes the importance of understanding the role of fire cisterns in stormwater collection before filling them in.
- Brooke Mohr clarifies that fire cisterns hold water, not manage it, and suggests that filling them in might not be practical.
- Howard Matz recalls that the decision to fill in cisterns was prompted by safety hazards, and Stephen Welch stresses the need to anticipate unintended consequences.

Proposed Enhancements for Newtown Road Improvements

- Stephen Welch suggests adding granite curbs to Newtown Road to prevent accidents, citing personal experience.
- He also proposes implementing a traffic slowing device on Hooper Farm Road to prevent high-speed exits.
- Stephen Welch highlights the increased foot traffic from six fairgrounds to Ticcoma Greens and 31 Fairgrounds, emphasizing the need for these enhancements.
- Peter Kaizer asks if these enhancements can be included in a motion to approve or hold, and Stephen Welch agrees to leave it for further discussion.

Review of Projects and Recommendations

- Stephen Welch quickly reviews the status of various projects, noting that most are approved except for those marked red or below the standard deviation.
- Christy Kickham requests a list of projects still up for discussion for the next meeting.
- Stephen Welch mentions the need for information from department heads, which might not be available by the next meeting.
- Howard Matz suggests finalizing the dump truck and public safety building projects before the next meeting.

Discussion on DPW Facility Location

- Brooke Mohr explains the potential site for the DPW facility at Shadbush, which includes a Kevlar netting technology to manage shooting range waste.
- Peter Kaizer and Christy Kickham discuss the centralized location of the DPW facility and its benefits.
- Howard Matz raises concerns about ongoing litigation affecting the DPW site at Shadbush.
- Brooke Mohr clarifies that the Select Board will need to approve the site, and the litigation will be part of the process.

Finalizing Meeting Details and Next Steps

- Stephen Welch proposes three options for handling projects without sufficient information: meeting to resolve them, voting to approve pending information, or noting them as not yet determined.
- Howard Matz supports the third option, which involves pursuing additional information and discussing it on the 14th.

- Peter Kaizer confirms the next meeting date as Thursday, December 14th, at 1pm.
- The meeting concludes with a focus on finalizing project recommendations and addressing any remaining concerns.
- Motion to adjourn made by Howard Matz. Motion approved unanimously.