



Town of Nantucket Capital Program Committee August 15, 2024 Minutes

Attending Members:	Stephen Welch, Chair, Christy Kickham, Jill Veith, Howard Matz, Dawn-Hill Holdgate, John Kitchener
Staff:	Susan Carmel, Assistant Finance Director, Jeff Carlson Carlson, Natural Resources Director, Vince Murphy Sustainability Projects Manager
Absent	Peter Kaizer

The Capital Program Committee meeting on August 15, 2024, reviewed several natural resources projects. Key projects include a \$2.4 million request for the downtown neighborhood flood barrier, a \$500,000 baseline water quality program, and a \$2 million dredge plan implementation. The committee discussed the importance of environmental justice and climate action plans, noting the need for a town-wide strategy to meet state mandates. The Sesachacha living shoreline project was highlighted for its resiliency and environmental benefits. The committee also emphasized the need for detailed cost breakdowns and potential grant opportunities to support these initiatives. The Capital Program Committee discussed the island's decarbonization plan, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach that includes local food production, electric vehicles, and reducing carbon footprints in transportation and home heating. The plan aims for net-zero by 2050, with potential flexibility to 2060 or 2070. Funding of \$500,000 will support plan development and implementation over 10 years. Approval will be through the Select Board, ensuring local control. The committee also considered the importance of community involvement and the potential formation of a citizen-based workgroup to ensure broad-based support and effective local control over future state mandates.

Action Items

- ☐ Provide supplemental data on identifiable/likely grants for each project.
- ☐ Reconcile the cost of individual requests versus the total cost shown in the database.
- ☐ Explore forming a citizen-based working group to help develop the Climate Action Plan.
- ☐ Provide a 500-foot view cost breakdown for each project request.

Meeting Commencement and Roll Call

- Stephen Welch initiates the meeting, noting the presence of various members including Jill Vieth, Dawn Holgate, Christy Kickham, Howard Matz, John Kitchener, Vince Murphy, and Jeff Carlson Carlson.
- A motion to approve the agenda is made by and seconded by Christy Kickham.

- Roll Call Vote: Christy aye, Howard aye, John aye, Jill aye, Dawn aye. Stephen aye. Passes Unanimously
- Stephen Welch mentions the auto video recording of the meeting and the absence of public comment due to the lack of attendees.
- Motion to approve minutes from August 10, 2023 September 7, 2023, and September 14, 2023. Made by John Kitchener and seconded by Jill Vieth.
- Roll call Vote: Jill aye, Dawn aye, John aye, Christy aye, Howard aye, Stephen aye.

• **Review of Natural Resources Requests**

- Stephen Welch requests an overview of the natural resources requests, noting there are seven requests to review.
- Stephen Welch suggests having department heads provide presentations to make the review more efficient.
- Jeff Carlson provides an overview of the requests, starting with the yearly baseline data program for water quality collection and groundwater surveys.
- Jeff Carlson discusses the Grant Point Shellfish Hatchery repair, emphasizing its resilience needs and collaboration with the Coast Guard.

Climate Action Plan and Downtown Neighborhood Flood Barrier

- Jeff Carlson explains the Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Framework, highlighting the island's efforts to achieve state and federal carbon goals.
- The downtown neighborhood flood barrier project is discussed, with a focus on the 30% design phase and the need for OPM services.
- Jeff Carlson mentions the dredge plan implementation, including the sediment transport study and public input sessions for prioritizing dredging needs.
- The Sesachacha Pond living shoreline project is discussed, focusing on the design phase and the creation of an offshore oyster reef to reduce wave energy.

Sesachacha Pond Nutrient Loading Project

- Jeff Carlson introduces the Sesachacha Pond nutrient loading project, comparing it to the Nantucket Harbor project.
- The project aims to target management options for nutrient loading within groundwater to improve water quality.
- Jeff Carlson explains the priority of the project, noting the need for continuous updates on nutrient loading studies.
- The project's goal is to provide informed management recommendations based on current data and impacts.

Discussion on Coastal Resiliency and Budget Allocation

- John Kitchener questions the increase in the natural resources capital requests from \$6.6 million in FY 24 to \$11.8 million in FY 26.
- Jeff Carlson explains the increase is due to expanded programming, planning efforts, and significant projects like the Sesachacha Pond living shoreline.
- The discussion highlights the need for a clear understanding of the total budget and the allocation of funds for different projects.
- Stephen Welch emphasizes the importance of reviewing the budget in the context of overall community spending and priorities.

Environmental Justice and Climate Action Plan

- Jeff Carlson explains the environmental justice component of the budget, focusing on the need for consistent engagement strategies.
- The Climate Action Plan is discussed, with a focus on aligning local efforts with state mandates for decarbonization.
- The importance of having a local plan to avoid state-mandated standards is emphasized.
- The discussion highlights the need for ongoing updates and engagement with environmental justice communities.

Review of Specific Projects and Budget Allocation

- The discussion shifts to specific projects, with questions about the budget allocation and the need for supplemental data.
- Jeff Carlson provides a breakdown of the costs for the downtown neighborhood flood barrier project, explaining the need for OPM services.
- The importance of having a clear understanding of the budget and the allocation of funds for different projects is reiterated.
- The discussion includes the need for a detailed breakdown of costs and the sources of funding for each project.

Decarbonization and Sustainability Planning

- Vince Murphy emphasizes the need to understand the energy requirements for the island and develop a plan to decarbonize over time.
- The discussion includes the importance of sustainability for mental health and local food production, such as the Shellfish Hatchery.
- Vince Murphy mentions the need for a reduction plan and the flexibility to extend the decarbonization date beyond 2050.
- Stephen Welch inquires about the funding for the plan and the approval process, including town meeting and state approval.

Approval Process and Local Control

- Vince Murphy explains that the plan typically gets approved by the Select Board without needing town meeting approval.
- Stephen Welch expresses concern about local control and the ability to set a decarbonization date later than the state's target.
- Vince Murphy confirms that the Select Board has the final say, and the state's Energy Office also needs to approve the plan.
- Jeff Carlson and Stephen Welch discuss the importance of local control and the potential changes in the future.

Plan Longevity and Annual Funding

- Christy Kickham asks about the longevity of the plan and the need for updates.
- Vince Murphy mentions the possibility of annual funding for plan development and implementation over a 10-year period.
- The discussion includes the importance of assessing carbon usage in various aspects, such as transportation and home heating.
- Vince Murphy highlights the need for a comprehensive plan to reduce the carbon footprint, considering both vehicles and homes.

Climate Action Plan and Community Involvement

- Christy Kickham inquires about the involvement of Lauren in the climate action plan and the importance of community engagement.
- Vince Murphy explains that the plan has evolved from a Climate Action Plan to a Sustainability Framework based on feedback from last year.
- Jeff Carlson suggests forming a citizen-based work group to develop the plan, involving facilitators and consultants.
- Stephen Welch emphasizes the need for community members to be involved in shaping the plan to ensure local control and support.

Economic Benefits and Future Planning

- Jeff Carlson discusses the economic benefits of the plan and the importance of a 10-year review cycle.
- Vince Murphy mentions the use of living documents to update the plan as needed.
- Stephen Welch suggests leveraging local control to secure future funding and support from the state.

The discussion includes the importance of community involvement in long-term planning.

Final Remarks and Next Steps

- Stephen Welch summarizes the key points discussed, emphasizing the need for a clear understanding of the budget and the allocation of funds.
 - The importance of having detailed information on the costs and sources of funding for each project is reiterated.
 - The discussion includes the need for ongoing updates and engagement with environmental justice communities.
 - The meeting concludes with a focus on the next steps and the importance of reviewing the budget in the context of overall community spending and priorities.
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- Stephen Welch thanks the participants and mentions the need for a cost breakdown from the \$500,000 funding.
 - Jeff Carlson confirms that the cost breakdown will be provided and reconciled with the total cost.
 - The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn and a reminder of the next meeting on August 22.
 - Motion to adjourn made by Christy Kickham.
 - Roll call: Christy aye, Dawn aye, John aye, Stephen aye.