



Town of Nantucket Capital Program Committee December 17, 2025

Attending Members:	Jill Vieth, Chair, Howard Matz, Vice Chair, Peter Kaizer, Dawn Hill, Caroline Baltzer, Christy Kickham, Liza Hatton
Staff:	Susan Carmel, Deputy Finance Director, Elizabeth Hallet, Superintendent, Martin Anguelov, Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Carlson, Natural Resources Director, Leah Hill, Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Absent	

The Capital Program Committee met on December 17 to discuss various projects, including a proposal for a groundwater and nutrient study in Seasachacha Pond and the campus stadium renovation. The stadium project, backed by the school committee, aims to replace the field surface with synthetic turf and upgrade the track. Initial costs are estimated at \$25.5 million, considering inflation and added features. The committee emphasized the need for phased implementation and strategic funding to avoid overwhelming annual expenditures. Additionally, the importance of proactive measures for coastal resilience, such as addressing rising tides and potential closures of major routes like Easy Street, was highlighted. Members stressed the necessity of continuous community engagement and efficient utilization of the Coastal Resiliency Fund for long-term infrastructure improvements.

Groundwater and Nutrient Study Proposal

- Jill Vieth opens the meeting and lists attendees, including various representatives and experts.
- Motion to approve the agenda made by Peter Kaizer and seconded by Liza Hatton.
- Roll call vote: Peter aye, Liza aye, Christy aye, Howard aye, Jill aye.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Public comments are opened; Jonah Seiger supports a proposal for a groundwater and nutrient study in Sesachacha Pond due to declining recreational quality caused by pollutants and bacteria.
- Discussion highlights the importance of maintaining Sesachacha Pond's status as a major resource for the community.

Sesachacha Pond Water Quality Concerns

- Jonah Seiger elaborates on the recurring issues affecting Sesachacha Pond, such as increased gecko populations, bacterial contamination, and PFAS levels.

- Emphasizes collaboration with Natural Resources and Health Departments to address these concerns.
- Expresses gratitude for community support and urges continued efforts to improve water quality.

School Capital Requests and Stadium Renovation

- Transition to school-related discussions, focusing on the Vito Capizzo stadium renovation.
- Elizabeth Hallett explains the background of the project, initiated in 2013, and its evolution over the years.
- Highlights the necessity of upgrading the field and stadium to meet current athletic and accessibility standards.

Details of the Field Surface Replacement Options

- Three options were discussed for the field surface replacement, with the latest supported by the school committee.
- Option three involves switching from natural grass to synthetic turf and updating the asphalt track to a polyurethane gel track.
- Costs and benefits of each option are reviewed, emphasizing the long-term advantages of synthetic turf.

Cost Breakdown and Phased Implementation

- John McKeating provides detailed cost estimates for the project, noting the initial figures and subsequent increases.
- Explains the stages of the project, from schematic design to construction documents, and the role of value engineering in managing costs.
- Discusses the challenges of securing funding and the timeline for completing the project, aiming for a bid by March 2026.

Community Support and Long-Term Benefits

- Community members express support for the project, highlighting the need for improved facilities for various sports and activities.
- Emphasis on the multi-sport usability of the new turf, enhancing the field's functionality and accessibility.
- Discussions on the broader impact of the project on the school's competitiveness and student health.

Funding Challenges and Strategic Planning

- Concerns about balancing the allocation of funds among various projects and the need for strategic financial planning.

- Importance of retaining surplus funds for future projects and avoiding overspending in a single fiscal year.
- Need for transparency and communication regarding project timelines and funding allocations.

Coastal Resiliency Funding and Future Projects

- Overview of the Coastal Resilience Fund (CRF) and its significance for long-range planning and emergency preparedness.
- Examples of ongoing and future projects requiring additional funding, such as flood control and infrastructure upgrades.
- Strategies for leveraging CRF funds to secure larger grants and ensure sustainable development.

Public Awareness and Communication Efforts

- Critique of limited media coverage and public visibility of ongoing projects.
- Suggestions for improving community engagement and showcasing project impacts through various platforms.
- Plans for creating educational content and organizing field trips to demonstrate project progress and goals.

Project Management and Reporting Tools

- Introduction of new project management software to enhance tracking and reporting capabilities.
- Goals for integrating project documentation and stakeholder feedback into a comprehensive digital platform.
- Vision for transparent and accessible project updates to foster public trust and involvement.

Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Encouragement for continued community participation and support for future initiatives.
- Motion to adjourn made by Liza Hatton and seconded by Christy Kickham.
- Roll call vote: Liza aye, Christy aye, Jill aye, Howard aye, Caroline aye.
- Motion passed unanimously.