



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **FY 2023-FY 2032 Capital Improvement Program**

In July of 2021 the Planning Board created a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subcommittee to complete the process of updating the CIP. The subcommittee consisted of three members of the Planning Board, a member from the Budget Committee and a member from the Building & Facilities Committee. The CIP Committee undertook the process of gathering information from the Departments and Committees of the Town. The information was collected in spreadsheets that define the project, the total cost of the project and the year(s) in which the money is planned to be spent. Some of the projects span multiple years. Following meetings with Department Heads and Officials, the CIP Committee deliberated to determine any changes or recommendations from the plan. The attached CIP Spreadsheet is the comprehensive document, points of interest for each Department are noted below. As the projects in this plan are implemented, we encourage Departments to utilize energy efficient methods and equipment to achieve the Town's 2018 goal of 100% renewable sources for electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel for heating and transportation by 2050.

The CIP is an advisory a planning document of recommended capital projects not a funding source. As the needs of the town evolve and projects historically noted in previous CIP documents are completed, this document looks to the future in an effort to identify and prioritize the evolving capital needs of the town. Capital investments shape and define the character, sense of place and economic vitality of this community. The CIP process is governed by State Law RSA 674:5.

### **Tracy Memorial Library**

The Committee recommends that the Library continue using their annual appropriation of \$35,000 to the capital reserve fund to accomplish a portion of the projects and needs identified in the CIP.

### **Department of Public Works**

#### *Highway*

The Committee notes that a significant portion of the Public Works Department's capital needs include equipment purchases. The Committee feels that the Department should consider purchasing and implementing an asset management program to help track Town equipment and facility needs. This program would be helpful for future CIP and budget processes to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of leasing equipment. The Committee recommends that the Department of Public Works work closely with the New London-Springfield System Water

Precinct on the coordination of infrastructure work along Main Street as the Water Precinct prepares for their water main replacement.

The Department of Public Works capital needs also include significant expenditures for sidewalks for the 2023 and 2025 fiscal years. The Committee encourages these and perhaps additional expenditures as consistent with the Master Plan conclusion that mobility enhancement is the top overall priority of residents.

### *Sewer*

The Committee would like to highlight the advantage of an Asset Management Program that the Department uses to track their equipment and systems.

### **New London-Springfield Water System Precinct**

The Committee recognizes the significant infrastructure project that the Water-Precinct faces with the replacement of the water main under Main Street. The work on Main Street should be carefully coordinated with the Department of Public Works to allow for the most efficient process with projects that the two entities have planned on Main Street.

The CIP Committee would also like to highlight the long-term concern of the capacity and sustainability of the wells on Colby Point that supply water to the Town of New London. Though the need for any major maintenance or replacement extends beyond the ten-year scope of this plan, the Town and the Water-Precinct should begin identifying any potential issues and corresponding solutions. To begin that process, we recommend that a joint committee of Town and Precinct Officials be established to move the planning process forward.

### **Fire Department**

The Committee feels the Fire Department should consider the usefulness of an Asset Management Program to help track their equipment and apparatus. A significant concern identified in the CIP is the potential need to expand the Fire Station. The Ladder 3 replacement is anticipated to be larger and will not fit in the current 11' garage doors. The conceptual solution to the issue is that an addition could be built with a bay that has a 14' door to accommodate the larger truck. Though the expansion is not anticipated for ten years, the Committee recommends the Fire Department and Town begin the planning process, as well as begin to plan financially for the project.

Though there is no immediate need for the Town to take-over ambulance service that is currently provided by New London Hospital, there is concern that at some point the Hospital may discontinue service and the Town will need to provide a solution, and the Fire Department's proposal for including this at the current Fire Station is a possible solution to address this contingency.

## **Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission continues to identify and pursue the purchase of desirable land where conservation adds value to the Town. The Commission feels that by 2032 they will need an additional \$500,000 to pursue their mission. Due to the opportunistic nature of their land purchases, it is difficult to identify specific parcels now; however, the Committee feels it is important to plan financially to take advantage of the opportunities when they arise. We recommend that the budgeting toward this goal be carried out through 2032.

## **Town Administration**

The Committee recommends that the Town fund projects at the Town Office for record management. There are two individual projects that have been identified, one that would digitize the Town Records for property files, planning & zoning files, Town Clerk files, etc. The second project would be for the Archives for a shelving system replacement. The Committee believes that digitization of all records where it is possible to do so, consistent with statutory requirements, is important.

## **Police Department**

The Committee focused a significant portion of their deliberation on the status of the Police Department and the facility needs. The CIP includes three potential options that the Department has identified. The options include a new police station at a new location, a renovated building at a different location and renovating the existing facilities at the current location. The CIP Committee does not recommend the renovation of the existing structure. The Committee feels it does not provide the best long-term solution given that it would still be on a small lot that would constrict future needs and that the building would eventually be outgrown, again. In evaluating the two remaining options the Committee did not feel that it was prudent to recommend one option over the other without a specific building or lot to evaluate. Each building and/or lot would present unique advantages and challenges that would need to be evaluated specific to that property. This committee recommends, an organized planning process to commence to identify and evaluate potential sites which possess the appropriate characteristics.