

**New London Planning Board
Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
2017-2023
Approved by Planning Board Sept 27, 2016**

INTRODUCTION

Annually the Planning Board reviews New London's capital needs and recommends a program of capital improvement projects for a period of at least six years. The CIP document approved by the Planning Board on November 17, 2015 identified key issues which need to be discussed by the Town now and in the future, and the document included five (5) recommendations of the Planning Board. These five recommendations served as the foundation for the development of this CIP document and the discussions which must occur to address current and future capital improvements needs of the Town.

PROCESS

The CIP process for the year 2016-2017 began with a meeting of the CIP Subcommittee on June 17, 2016, which included reviewing the CIP document of Nov 17, 2015. It was noted that some projects were underway such as the Sewer Lagoon project, Brookside Drive and the GIS Tax Map Correction project. Furthermore, it was understood that much of the discussions regarding the 1941 Building Site and Building are still ongoing, and subsequent improvements to other Town facilities such as the Dispatch Center, Recreation and Whipple would evolve as the discussion on the 1941 Building Site and Building continues.

To facilitate the ongoing discussions, the Board of Selectmen asked Richard Lee, Public Works Director to prepare a comprehensive list of prioritized projects for review and consideration. Two memos were presented to the Board of Selectmen by Richard Lee, Public Works Director dated June 24, 2016 and June 30, 2016. These memos provided an extensive list of current and potential projects and estimated costs. The CIP Subcommittee then held a meeting on July 22, 2016 and Richard Lee provided an overview of these projects. To better understand the projects, the CIP Subcommittee scheduled a Site Tour on August 8, 2016 for Richard Lee to explain several of the projects in more detail to the Subcommittee. Below are the recommendations of the CIP Subcommittee based on the discussions at the various meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING BOARD:

- A. The highest priority for capital investment is to analyze the cost of acquiring and refurbishing the 1941 Building, including the gym, based upon an analysis for future use for one or more municipal activities and to present a proposal to the Town Meeting March 2017.
- B. Fund the Pleasant Lake Dam Project
- C. Fund the Sewer Lagoon Project
- D. Fund the Parkside Sidewalk Project
- E. Fund Goose Hole Bridge Engineering
- F. Fund the Study of the Transfer Station Site including addressing the future space requirements for the transfer station.
- G. Increase funding for sidewalk and bridge projects in the Capital Reserve accounts.
- H. The Town should continue to invest in heavy duty equipment to meet the fire safety, highway maintenance, and trash collection requirements of the Town.

PURPOSE OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP) DOCUMENT

This Capital Improvements Program (CIP) represents a renewed effort by the Planning Board to focus on the need for planning rather than the mechanics of funding current and future expenditures. The recommendations outlined within should not be construed to replace the determination of the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the Town Meeting to establish reserve funds to smooth the payment of Town expenses over multiple tax years, or to raise monies through bonding for major projects, or to seek grant funding for one or more expenditures.

The CIP is an advisory, guiding document, not a funding source. The CIP document is an evolving document as priorities may change from year to year. The Budget Committee, Board of Selectmen and ultimately the voters of New London, vote to determine how they plan to continue the vision of their community, noting capital investments shape and define the character, sense of place and economic vitality of the Town.