

New London Planning Board
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
2020-2026

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 identifies key issues which need to be part of the discussion in the budget preparation process involving the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Review Committee. The recommended capital improvement projects and progress toward same will be considered as part of the annual CIP process in subsequent years.

PROCESS

The CIP process for the years 2020-2026 began with an inquiry to Department Heads to review the existing 2019-2025 CIP for completed projects and to recommend new initiatives. A review of the status of the previous CIP recommendations indicates the following status:

- A. As supported by the 2019 Master Plan Survey, the first priority of the 2019-2025 CIP was to develop a plan with timelines to facilitate the development of a new facility to house the New London Police Department and New London Dispatch Department. This initiative is still considered a top priority.
- B. The Selectmen reviewed the Transfer Station study and determined that the Transfer Station is not a top priority at this time but should continue to be monitored. The Selectmen may work with the State to acquire more land if the opportunity arises.
- C. The Police Department needs to expand their radio communication coverage.
- D. The Town should continue efforts to fulfil the warrant passed at the 2018 Town Meeting to achieve 100% renewable sources for electricity by 2030 and 100% renewable fuel sources for heating and transportation by 2050. Additionally, the Town should support local institutions, businesses and residents to reach the same goals and considering cooperative efforts with Colby-Sawyer as they have set a similar goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, the Master Plan should incorporate energy and resiliency throughout the plan.

The CIP Subcommittee utilized the recommendations of the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Recreation Director and Town Administrator.

As a result of these reviews and discussions: The New London Planning Board recommends the following Capital Improvement Projects be considered to add to the Capital Improvement program.

- The Police Department has expressed the need to expand its space and upgrade the Department's facilities. The Cricenti property on County Road has been identified as an ideal parcel that holds potential to house not only the Police Station but would provide the town with additional land for any future municipal facility needs.
- The Fire Department is planning the replacement of their Rescue Engine and are working to determine the estimated cost of replacement.
- As supported by the 2019 Master Plan Survey, the Planning Board supports the annual funding for the Conservation Land Acquisitions Fund.

The CIP is an advisory, guiding document, 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.