

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM  
FY 2016- FY 2021**



**Approved by the New London Planning Board – November 18, 2014  
Planning Board Public Hearing – November 18, 2014**

**Town of New London  
Capital Improvements Program (CIP)  
2016-2021**

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 primary purpose of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to aid the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen in its consideration of the annual budget (RSA 674:5-8), as well as to provide an advisory document to guide the Town in addressing long term improvements and needs.

- The CIP is an advisory document, not a funding source. Priorities and goals of Town Departments, the Kearsarge Regional School District and the Springfield-New London Water Precinct should be reflected in the document. Funding decisions are subject to review by the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and the Town Meeting process.
- The CIP identifies only estimated costs. The anticipated funding of projects may be from various sources including but not limited to federal, state, county and local sources.
- The CIP document is an evolving document as priorities may change from year to year and as additional information and details about a specific project may be obtained.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE MASTER PLAN

The current New London Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Board on December 11, 2011. Per RSA 674:7, the Master Plan shall be reviewed in preparing the CIP. Additional details on demographics, long term needs, community survey results and recommendations may be found in various chapters of the Master Plan.

ANNUAL CIP PROCESS

The Planning Board begins the Annual CIP process by inviting all municipal departments, the School District and the Water Precinct to present statements of all capital projects with a potential cost of \$75,000<sup>1</sup> or more proposed to be undertaken during the next six years. The Planning Board considers these statements, establishes a priority list of projects, prepares a draft CIP document and may hold a public hearing, although there is no statutory procedure for the Planning Board to follow to adopt the final product. The Planning Board may decide to adopt the CIP document following the process of RSA 675:6. The Planning Board then adopts the CIP

---

<sup>1</sup> The Planning Board initially set the threshold for identifying capital projects at \$50,000, but in the process of reviewing proposed projects determined that \$75,000 was a more useful threshold.

and provides it to the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for their consideration in the preparation of the annual budget.

In September and October 2014, the Planning Board heard presentations from the following departments and others including: Assessing, Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, Town Administration, Recreation Department, Library, Cemetery Commission, Water Precinct, and the Kearsarge Regional School District. Members of the Planning Board also conducted a tour of the New London Police Department and visited the Sunapee Safety Complex (shared by the Police and Fire Departments of the Town of Sunapee).

Each presentation and discussion was insightful to the Planning Board in looking at the individual needs and understanding common issues among the various Town Departments and others. The Planning Board initially set the threshold for identifying capital projects at \$50,000, but in the process of reviewing proposed projects determined that \$75,000 was a more useful threshold. The CIP discussions helped the Planning Board in establishing categories for addressing the capital needs. These categories include: projects which met the \$75,000 threshold established; projects related to space utilization, storage capacity and programming issues; major equipment replacement items important to public safety; projects related to operational issues which may warrant the need to establish on-going capital reserve accounts; infrastructure improvements such as roads and sidewalks; and long-term planning projects that warrant further discussion.

Below are the Planning's Board recommendations on how to address some of the capital needs within the next 5-6 years. The Planning Board recognizes the need for continued and on-going discussion on other long-range planning issues facing the Town of New London.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING BOARD

1. Equipment and vehicles critical to public safety are the Planning Board's highest priority for capital investment at the current time. Heavy duty equipment must be kept in excellent condition to meet the safety, highway maintenance, and trash collection requirements of the Town. Providing funding for these four pieces of equipment, with a total replacement cost in excess of \$1 million, is important for the proper management of Town assets. The Planning Board's specific recommendations address only the equipment needs of the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department that are anticipated to exceed \$75,000 per piece of equipment within the next six years, these include:
  - Replace major fire apparatus: Tanker in 2019 (\$550,000)
  - Replace major highway equipment and transfer station equipment: Loader in 2017 (\$190,000), Road Grader in 2021 (\$235,000) and Trash Trailer in 2020 (\$90,000).

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Town contract in 2015 to complete the Tax Map Correction project. In 2008, the Town, along with the Town of Sunapee completed new aerial photography. The tax maps were not compiled using a corrected photography as a base. The tax maps are not an accurate depiction of specific locations or real places on the earth. These maps became the basis of the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS). The tax maps are used by Town Departments, local boards and commissions, property owners, realtors, builders and others doing business in the Town. It is important that they are accurate. The total project cost is \$75,000 of which \$35,000 was already funded by Town Meeting votes in 2011, 2012 and 2014. The remaining funding and execution of this project is the second highest priority identified in the CIP process.
  
3. The third priority of the Planning Board is a recommendation to modernize and improve the dispatch center subject to final determination as to the future status of the dispatching function in New London, as this has been identified as a safety issue for the Town. For several years updating, expanding and improving the equipment used for dispatch in New London and adjoining towns that purchase dispatch services from New London has been deferred and the time has come to address this need. Dispatch is a safety issue, timeliness of response is critical to meeting the needs of residents of the community, being able to respond to emergencies and regional mutual aid request for assistance. The Planning Board recommends that the needed equipment be purchased in in 2015 and 2016 (\$180,000).

#### Long- Range Planning Issues

In the course of these discussion, the Planning Board determined that a number of potential projects were either interrelated or involved issues requiring further examination and input from Town residents. Three (3) key long-range planning themes emerged:

1. A common issue identified by several departments was the need for space, for a variety of uses. Many "what-if" scenarios were discussed. The space needs were for storage-retention of Town records, equipment and material storage; space needs related to programming issues; and how to best accommodate current and existing space needs in the short-term and plan for the future. If a particular space is vacated or used for another purpose, some of the space issues could be addressed. Should the Police Department relocate could this space be used for storage, to meet the needs of the Recreation Department or for some other uses? Furthermore, the issues of parking at the Town Offices, at Whipple Hall and near the library was identified as a topic for further discussion, as this is related to the space utilization issue.

2. A second issue relates to infrastructure projects including parking capacity improvements in and around town facilities and in the commercial area along Main Street; paving gravel roads; sidewalk replacement and/or expansion; coordination of water main replacement and other public utilities related improvements, such as roadways and sidewalks; expansion and improvements to cemeteries; future water needs including water wells and discussion of surface water treatment; and school building improvements.
3. Thirdly, the Planning Board acknowledged that some projects do not meet the requirements at this time to be included in the current CIP document. These projects, overtime, could become potential projects for consideration, however based on other current needs, and priorities, they are not identified as projects of importance at this time.
  - Closing of the sewer lagoons and possible future use of the lagoon land for one or more activities
  - Replacement of Fire Department breathing apparatus in approximately 2028
  - Further increases in Town-owned conservation land and conservation easements

#### PLANNING vs. BUDGETING AND FUNDING

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 above 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 a guiding document pointing to major investment needs identified by the Planning Board.

The Planning Board will form a study group in 2015 to evaluate with Town leadership and residents strategies for addressing and better understanding the capital improvements needs and coordination of needs for the Town of New London, as they relate to long-range community planning and the New London Master Plan.