

OFFICIAL  
Planning Board CIP Sub-Committee  
8/14/2023  
6:30 pm

**Members**

David Copeland (Chair)  
Bob Strobel  
Hal Kreider  
Todd Abernathy  
Maggie Kerkhoff  
David Brown  
Ginger Dole

Mr. Copeland opened the meeting at 6:30 pm, all members are present.

Recreation Director Scott Blouin and Assistant Jessie LeBlanc are here to present additional information for items to be placed on the CIP Plan.

Mr. Blouin informed the committee there are four items the Recreation Department would like to move forward with. When asked to rank them in order, with #1 being the most urgent, the list is as follows:

#1. Storage Building. He explained that they had been using two containers to store various holiday items and tools. They were not level at their location, and were very unattractive. One has been removed and donated to the highway department. The other is still there, as well as a small shed housing the lawn mower, and other tools for field maintenance. The Rec Dept. is now mowing all the fields. He would like a 24' x 24' 2 bay garage with storage on top, to keep everything in one building, and secure. The initial quote last year was from LaValley Building Supply in Middleton for \$75,000.

#2. Athletic Fields. There are various improvements including additional parking, additional fields for other sports, improved roadway. Minimum of \$25,000.

#3. Lucas Pond Beach improvements. Mr. Blouin stated that extensive work needs to be done to increase parking, a boat ramp, concrete ramp into the lake. First estimate was \$250,000, to be funded through both a warrant article and grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is part of Fish & Game Department.

#4. Northwood Lake Beach. Two projects here. A. A Pavilion at the beach, with a couple (perhaps more, depending on size) picnic tables, with an estimated cost of \$35,000. Additionally, they would like to have playground equipment installed, with an estimated cost of \$25,000.

He also mentioned that now with the Center School gone, he feels the Town needs to think about creating an indoor space for activities.

Discussion began with Mr. Kreider noting that all these projects will need community support. Questions raised included; how many people currently use Lucas Pond Beach? Is it just locals in the neighborhood? How much land near the water entrance is owned by the town? Is there room to

enlarge parking etc.? Referencing Northwood Lake Beach, the same questions were raised. Is there room to have a pavilion, playground equipment and still have a beach area? Does the town-owned land allow for additional parking?

Discussion turned to the Athletic Fields. M. Kreider asked if the Department has a "Master Plan" that details future additions and their locations. More specifically, as all present agreed additional parking is needed, and repairs to the road should be made, where would the new storage building be located? Where would more parking be located? Mr. Blouin responded that the storage building would be next to the existing well pump house. He also informed the Committee that Land Consultants has prepared a map/plan of the entire property, which will help in locating these and other items.

Mr. Blouin also agreed these were all good questions, but he doesn't have the answers or additional information here tonight. Mr. Strobel explained the purpose of the CIP Plan, which is to assist in long range planning of very expensive projects, so that associated costs can be spread out over several years. This applies to every department, and the plan asks what year requested projects will be needed? This allows the opportunity to space out requested funds and allow the tax impact to remain as close to stable, year after year, as possible.

When Mr. Blouin was asked which was the more urgent need – Adding additional parking and upgrading the roadway, or the storage garage, he replied the storage garage. Mr. Kreider stated he feels more infrastructure at the fields would be first choice. He noted that support for the fields doubled after adding the water and pump. He felt there would be more community support with road improvements and additional parking. Ms. Dole noted that people were being shuttled from Coe-Brown to the fields for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations and Bean Hole Bash, and so agreed more parking would be a definite advantage.

Mr. Strobel asked Mr. Blouin if he had seen the updated form to be used for CIP projects. He had not. Mr. Strobel will send new forms to Ms. Smith for distribution to all departments, and they should have them by Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, M. LeBlanc was asked her opinion as to the most urgent need, and she agreed that the storage building would be her top priority.

At this time, both Mr. Blouin and Ms. LeBlanc left the meeting, planning to get additional information, and as suggested, will speak with the Town Administrator regarding formal RFP's.

Discussion continued with committee members regarding planning for future meetings, and how to finalize our recommendations. It was suggested by Mr. Abernathy that Ms. Dole could provide departments assistance in completing the revised forms, and I agreed to assist them.

Chair Copeland suggested that next year, we should consider starting this process earlier in July, to allow enough time to meet with department heads. Mr. Kreider added that in the future, the department heads need to complete the request paperwork before meeting with us, so we have a clearer idea of what is requested, the rationale, cost, and time frame.

Ms. Dole asked if everyone had received the draft minutes for the 8/7/23 meeting, none had as yet. She suggested we could review both sets, 8/7/23 and tonight's minutes at the next meeting, on 8/21/23.

***Motion: Mr. Abernathy made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Mr. Kreider seconded the motion. Vote 7-0 Yes. Meeting adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Dole

Recording Secretary