

## Capital Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

The Capital Budget Committee held a meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 over Zoom.

The following members were present:

Edward C. Forsberg (Chair)	Justin Haner
Cheryl Caron (Vice Chair)	Leah McGill
Noreen Gordon (Clerk)	David Thornton
Josette Burke	

No members were absent

Also in attendance were Patrick Shield, Patrick Deschenes, Landis Hershey, Jack Wiley, Brendan Croak, Bill Buckley, and Gary Riggott.

The meeting was called to order by Edward J. Forsberg at 7:00 PM

### Capital Budget Overview

Assistant Town Administrator Patrick Shield announced that on Monday night the Sewer and Water Commissioners met and decided to reprioritize their budget requests, so he sent an email out with a revised packet of requests. He also included information on a recently conducted facilities study that outlined recommended improvements on some of Walpole's buildings and infrastructure.

### General Government Requests

**Community & Economic Development:** Community & Economic Development Director Patrick Deschenes presented the department's request for \$200,000 to fund the Downtown Wayfinding & Branding Program. This project would revamp the Town's character and image with new signage, branding, and decoration.

**Conservation Commission:** Conservation Agent Landis Hershey and Conservation Commission Chair Jack Wiley presented the department's two requests. The first request is for \$42,436 to fund a project to improve access to a plot of land off of North Street recently purchased by the Conservation Commission. This project would include clearing of trees, constructing a turnout for vehicles to drive upon, and signage to mark the route. The second request is for \$8,750 to fund the vegetation treatment of Memorial Pond. This project would help fend off invasive plant species and maintain the pond's current ecosystem.

**Culture & Recreation:** Recreation Director Brendan Croak and 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair Bill Buckley presented the department's five requests. The first request is \$50,000 to fund a portion of the

300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration expenses, including parades, fireworks, t-shirts, tchotchkes, and other types of merchandise. The second request is for **\$10,000** to purchase Downtown Recreation Elements and Activities. This could include concrete lawn games, like corn hole or chess tables, strategically placed throughout town. The third request is for **\$540,000** to pay for repairs to Blackburn Hall, including renovations of bathrooms, drainage sites, entrances, and interior & exterior walls. The goal is to bring the building up to ADA accessibility code and improve safety overall. The final two requests are for design services for the town's two pools. **\$640,000** is to develop blueprints for the replacement of Center Pool and **\$605,000** is for plans to redesign South Pool.

**Trails Committee:** Trails Committee member Gary Riggott presented the committee's three main requests. The first is for **\$10,000** for a feasibility study for the installation of the Metacomet Greenway Trail. This study would determine the most economical route to construct the 400- to 800-yard section of trail from the Fields to the Norfolk border. This multi-town project would construct an ADA-compliant bike path extending all the way down to Cumberland, Rhode Island. The second request is for **\$1,000** to pay for the installation of a set of stairs or a ramp leading to Endean Trail, as the current path is very steep. The third request is for **\$2,000** to fund the completion of Walpole's Trail Signage Project, which would finish placing signs along the remainder of the town's unmarked trails. These projects would benefit many people, as hiking is an activity that has substantially increased in popularity ever since the COVID pandemic occurred.

#### Adjournment

**MOTION** by Josette Burke to adjourn. Seconded by Cheryl Caron. The motion passed (7-0-0).

The Capital Budget Committee adjourned at 9:00pm.