

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom

September 29, 2021

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

Attendees: CIC members: Greg Garrison, Steve Ellis, Fred Bowman, Jason Burbank. Tom Bergeron, DPW; Chelsey Little, WPCF; John Martineau, Public.

Roll Call was used for all votes taken due to remote meeting format.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approved the minutes of September 8, 2021. Moved by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Mr. Burbank. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Consideration of Any Capital Article Appearing on the Special Town Meeting Warrant

There was discussion of any updates regarding capital requests that are planned for the October Special Town Meeting Warrant, as follow:

- DPW Robotic Sewer Camera (\$114,382). Mr. Bergeron responded to a wide range of questions from CIC Members, clarifying the reasons the camera is needed, the range of expected uses, training and operational plans, performance during product demonstration, and warranty, as well as the advisability of contracting for these services rather than creating in-house capacity. The committee was convinced of that purchase of the camera was a more cost-effective option.
 - Moved: By Mr. Bowman to recommend the purchase of a robotic sewer camera at a cost of \$114,382. Mr. Burbank seconds. Motion passes 4-0.
- 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge Bid Contingency (\$200,000). Mr. Ellis explained the Selectboard's concern that the previously discussed figure of \$100,000 may not be sufficient given other recent bid results. CIC reviewed previous understandings of the need, based on Engineer's Opinion of Probably Cost.
 - Moved: By Mr. Bowman to recommend appropriation of \$200,000 for the purposes of the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge project, whether for award of the base bid or any alternate bid items. Mr. Ellis seconds. Motion passes 4-0.
- Briefly reviewed previous request for \$135,000 to implement the Montague City Road Flooding Relief project. This funding would bring available funds to \$365,640, including a FEMA grant award. Previously voted to recommend this article 4-0 on September 18.

3. Other Pending Projects

- Burnham Cemetery Retaining Wall Failure. Cemetery Commission has identified a substantial issue, with retaining wall collapsing into an abutter's yard. Mr. Bergeron explained that heavy tree and root growth is a major part of the issue. Trees need to be cleared and wall excavated and rebuilt. Working with Judith Lorei of the Commission and with Ed Young, excavator. No budget information as yet.
- Council on Aging Exterior Siding. Revised quote seems exorbitant at an excess of \$50,000. Mr. Ellis proposed to the Finance Committee and Selectboard that this exceeds maximum expected cost discussed by CIC on September 18 and it should be withheld from the warrant while the CIC gives it further consideration. Mr. Martineau feels it needs to be done this coming calendar year, would like to see it on the winter STM.

4. Updates on Capital Projects

- Mr. Ellis invited members to Spinner Park re-opening on October 2nd at 10am.
- Plan to bid Shea/Colle Sidewalk project this winter for spring 2022 construction.
- Bid results from the 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge are not available today as expected, due to a delay in the bid opening following submission of technical questions from vendors, which required extensive response.
- Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Project is complete and on budget!
- Unity Park Shared Streets Project, to make permanent some of the painted features that calm traffic and improve aesthetics where Second Street enters the Unity Park parking lot, is about to begin. Notice to proceed with construction issued.

5. Member Recruitment Update

- Discussed John Martineau's interest in joining the committee following observation of several meeting. He is still considering the matter. He'd like to participate, but the meeting time is difficult. Members expressed an openness to considering other days or times. To be discussed next meeting.

6. Next Meeting Agenda

- Next Meeting date to be October 20. In addition to membership recruitment/meeting time discussion, we will plan to hear a proposal for the CIC to assist with evaluation of the RFP for disposition of 500 Avenue A. Members generally like this idea, feel it would be a good role for the CIC. Will wait for request from Selectboard.

Adjournment.

Mr. Bowman moves to adjourn. Mr. Burbank seconds. Motion passes 4-0.