

Town of Stoneham Capital Committee Notes

September 10, 2025 8:30 AM (via ZOOM)

Attendees: Heidi Bilbo, Ryan Brown, Kristen DeFrancisco, Melanie Fiore, Joseph Joffe, Jay McNeil, Lauri Plourde, Kara Rozycki, Leia Secor, Dennis Sheehan, Marcia Wengen
Guests: Brett Gonsalves, James O'Connor, Jen DeCourcy, David Luciano

1. Approve meeting minutes
 - Kara moved to approve last 2 meetings' minutes, 2nd by Jay
2. Review of Public Works Requests
 - Presentation from Brett Gonsalves
 - Roadway Paving overview
 - Capital Requests for DPW: Front End Loader (\$290K), Dump Truck (\$85K), 6-Wheel Dump Truck PRIORITY (\$290K) - also Drainage/Sewer Investigation (\$40K - Richardson Lane area)
 - DPW Upcoming Challenges - aging equipment all over 10 years of age: Truck 10 (2012 6 Wheel Dump), Truck 23 (2014 6 Wheel Dump), Truck 5 (2014 Utility Body OUT OF SERVICE), Truck 33 (2008 Loader)
 - Can possibly use Water/Sewer money for the Richardson Lane Investigation needs
 - Can't dip into Snow Removal funds for purchase of DPW vehicle intended for Snow Removal, due to the need for funding the snow removal as planned
3. Review of Conservation Commission Requests (Whip Hill Improvements)
 - Breakdown of Whip Hill location and history
 - Number of items from the recent GRLA report that highlight possible improvements and repair, including trail maintenance
 - Possible partnership with Friends of the Fells, but the number of items (and scope) mean that CAP will need to approve at least some level of funding, to address the needed issues
 - Study completed in Fall of 2024
 - BREAKDOWN OF COSTS
 - JMN asking about availability of Grant funding to offset these costs/needs - DS mentioned that this report will help with applying for Grants, now that the information is available for use in those applications (Green Community Grants, etc.)
 - HB asking if a similar study ever done for COA/Senior Center property
 - \$81,500 deemed most needed to keep water/weather out of the property
 - DS will see if we can get a firmer roof repair estimate for WH

- MW asking for clarification on specific requests and costs, to ensure everyone is on the same page - 201,928 per Leia Secor
 - Trust will take care of Lead Paint removal/abatement in Caretaker's apartment, due to need and timing/immediacy

4. Review of Police Department Requests

- SPD CAP Presentation
 - 2 major requests - highlighted as highest needs at present
 - Procure 2 marked SPD vehicles plus all essential equipment (radar, radios, ticket printers, onboard computers, etc.) - \$166K

FY2026 - VEHICLES

- Procure two (2) marked police vehicles along with essential equipment, including radars, radios, ticket printers, and onboard computers, with a funding request of \$166,000. Estimated useful life of a marked vehicle is +/- 5 years, depending on use and mileage.
- McGovern: Low Profile Unit – Gas Version (Ghost) \$73,678
- McGovern: Line Car with Lt Bar – Gas Version (BW) \$76,573
- Additional equipment - \$15,749

- Chose to request gas-powered vehicles, as the cost is slightly lower than a similar electric model (in deference to current Town Finances)
- Not requesting new Chevy vehicles - too many issues with maintenance/repair of the current Chevy fleet vehicles (also moving back to Ford means more/cheaper parts availability for future repairs)
- 5 marked vehicles and 1 unmarked vehicle in the list of those needing to be replaced now and in the near future
 - Vehicle 120 (2020 Chevy Tahoe) - estimated cost of repair is currently at \$16K for engine and \$6K for body work - deemed not worth the cost of repair versus overall value
 - Vehicle 122 (2020 Chevy Tahoe) - combination of wiring issues and vehicle having been back and forth to Chevy for constant repair and work
 - 116 (2018 Ford Explorer)
 - 119 (2019 Chevy Tahoe)
 - 118 (2019 Chevy Tahoe)
- COC and BG both confirm that recent history has shown that Ford vehicles are preferred to Chevy for reasons of cost of repair, reliability, etc.

- JMCN asked if it would be easier to institute a rolling vehicle replacement program, as opposed to specific CAP requests for each/every vehicle
 - Discussion between LS, LP, and DS about pros and cons of building vehicle costs into Dept budgets etc.
 - Detective Bureau Redesign
 - Redesign is estimated at \$78,111, and intended to cover architectural design, furniture, rugs, window shades and IT infrastructure
 - Benefits and Outcomes of the redesign for the SPD and Detective Bureau, including operational efficiency and technology integration, and morale
 - Expected to only take a few months for renovation work, and SPD would plan to shift employees around the building/to other offices, during the work period
 - SPD Uniform officer radio replacements
 - Net \$167K cost of replacement of radios (over 13 years old at present)
 - Need to upgrade and replace the equipment, as well as ensuring that they meet current standards for security and interoperability with other/outside police departments
 - LS asked about phases of previous replacement/upgrade - DL spoke about replacement for officers and dispatch, now the uniform officer equipment needs to be addressed
 - JJ/JMCN asked about expected price increases of Motorola equipment after the current quote expires (after 12/31/25), and questions of upgrading replacing some of the equipment now vs future costs of interoperability and future replacement needs
5. Review new/outstanding requests, potential funding levels for October Town Meeting
- Need to have Brian McNeil come before CAP next week (on behalf of schools and other depts)
 - Library - Junior Room renovations well underway
 - Per DS/LP, expected to be approx.. \$700k for CAP to consider overall at October TM (**affected by the usage of money diverted out of Stabilization**)
6. Schedule leading up to October Town Meeting
- Request to have Erin Wortman before CAP if available
 - Question of whether SFD needs to come before the group
 - Looking to limit potentially to one presenter per meeting, to allow us to keep meeting length more manageable for members
7. Next Meetings

- Monday, 9/15 (8/8:15) - expecting to hear from Brian McNeil