



# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development

Michael J. Kruse, Director



David B. Cohen  
Mayor

**DATE:** February 28, 2005  
**TO:** Nonantum Advisory Committee and Interested Citizens  
**FROM:** Danielle Bailey, Community Development Planner  
**SUBJECT:** January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary

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## Nonantum Advisory Committee January 19, 2005

**Members:**

Ald. Scott Lennon  
Kathy Zegarelli

**Interested Citizens:**

Bill Coady  
Don DeFilippis

**City Staff:**

Danielle Bailey, Community Development  
Dee Spiro, Community Development  
Amy Yuhasz, Community Development

## NONANTUM NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE FY06-10 CONSOLIDATED PLAN

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***Elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson***

Due to poor member turnout as a result of the weather, elections will be postponed until the next meeting.

***Nonantum Neighborhood Improvements for the FY06-10 Consolidated Plan***

Staff stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review information gathered at past community meetings, discuss potential projects, and decide which projects to implement with the amount of funds expected to be available. Since the meeting in September, staff has been working with other City departments to estimate project costs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) cut the City's FY06 CDBG budget by about 6%, so that brings what was normally a \$200,000 allocation per funding cycle down to about \$185,000. The City is using this amount as the basis for future allocations. This reduction in funding makes project prioritization even more difficult.

***Revisit committee priorities and review feedback from City departments***

Before the discussion began, the group wondered if the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds could help make up the gap in funding. Staff replied that CPA funds are a possibility for projects involving open space preservation, recreation preservation, historic preservation, and/or affordable housing. Staff informed the committee that competition for these funds has significantly increased and requests now exceed available funding.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Nonantum Traffic Study	Phase 1: Analyze and develop strategies for reducing speed, improve pedestrian routes, lessen noise pollution, etc. Streets to focus on include Chapel, West, Hawthorn, Adams and Pearl & Washburn	\$30,000
	Phase 2: Upgrade crosswalks & other traffic improvements as recommended in the traffic study	\$50,000
	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
Discussion and Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ald. Lennon questioned the need and effectiveness of a large traffic study. A study might make recommendations that the neighborhood and the Board do not find favorable. He hopes that in the future the Traffic Division will have more resources so that when something is docketed, that item can be analyzed by City staff. He also believes that since there is ample time between now and FY08, the issues could be studied and solutions could be devised, saving a lot of money versus doing a comprehensive study. Ald. Lennon will talk to Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, about working together to create solutions to some of these ongoing concerns without investing much money into studies.</li> <li>• Raised crosswalks are a potential traffic-calming tool that could be useful on certain side streets. A raised crosswalk is similar to a speed bump but it is much wider, wide enough for pedestrian passage overtop. The topic is currently being discussed by the Public Safety and Transportation Committee. Middle Street might a good location for this traffic-calming measure.</li> </ul>		

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Magni-Coletti Park Improvements	Install new decorative fencing, other items to be determined	\$30,000
	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Discussion and Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group feels that this park is so significant and the events and lights make Nonantum very special. If new fencing is installed, it should work well with the annual holiday lights and have a neighborhood feel. The folks behind the Nonantum's Childrens' Christmas Fund should be involved in the planning of the improvements.</li> <li>• The Parks and Recreation Department has seen the ideas of all the committees and is supportive of most physical improvements. However, memorialization of items must be requested from the residents as a separate process from the improvement itself. Naming of a bench or walkway must be petitioned by the residents before the Parks and Recreation Commission.</li> </ul>		

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Cook Street Reconstruction	Construct new roadway, sidewalks, granite curbing and trees (approximate total cost is \$400,000)	\$75,000
	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
Discussion and Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because there are multiple priorities and less available funding, if this project were to move forward, the Department of Public Works (DPW) would need to contribute a much larger percentage than they did for the West Street Reconstruction project (previously the percentage was about 50/50). DPW has been asked if they would be willing to accept less CDBG funding to redo Cook Street. Staff is awaiting a reply on the funding question as well as where Cook Street falls on DPW's list of priorities.</li> </ul>		

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Nonantum Tree Plantings	Plant approximately 50 trees throughout the Nonantum Target Neighborhood	\$30,000
	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
Discussion and Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fifty trees is an estimate prepared by staff. This number could be increased or decreased based on the committee's preference. The cost estimate assumes \$600 per tree installation. Current prices range between \$400-500. The \$600 unit price factors in inflation and contingencies.</li> </ul>		

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Accessible Pedestrian Signals	Install 1-2 accessible pedestrian signals at traffic lights in village center	\$10,000
	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
Discussion and Comments:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is most logical to install accessible audible pedestrian signals where traffic signals presently exist. There are three locations along Watertown Street: Adams, Chapel, and Capital. There is much less pedestrian traffic at the Capital intersection so this location is not as preferred as Adams and Chapel. Each installation could cost approximately \$5,000. This includes the displays, speakers, and possibly numerical countdowns, similar to those at Washington and Walnut.</li> <li>There are many seniors in the neighborhood and this would be very beneficial for them.</li> </ul>		

### ***Vote on future Neighborhood Improvement projects***

The committee felt that all of the projects were important but some of the numbers were tweaked in order to arrive at the estimated \$185,000.

The \$30,000 traffic study was cut in lieu of doing the analyses in-house. The tree planting budget was also cut by \$10,000, leaving that project with \$20,000. The group unanimously approved the following recommended FY08 Nonantum Neighborhood Improvement Projects:

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#### **Housing and Community Development Division**

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459-1400

Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142

[www.ci.newton.ma.us](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us)

• <b>Nonantum Traffic Improvements</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
• <b>Magni-Coletti Park Improvements</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
• <b>Cook Street Reconstruction</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
• <b>Nonantum Tree Plantings</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
• <b>Accessible Pedestrian Signals</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>

Staff explained that changes can be made to the project list if significant changes occur between now and FY08.

***Updates on Active Projects***

- **Nonantum Parks Improvements**  
The contract for the consultant, Pressley Associates, is now back at they City being routed for final signature. After it is executed, a team meeting will be held to discuss the first steps, one of which will be a park user-ship survey.
- **West Street Reconstruction**  
This project was completed satisfactorily and will to be closed out soon.
- **California Street ‘Gaslights’**  
All of the lights are up and most are powered. The remaining unpowered lights will be addressed soon.

***Set next meeting date & Adjournment***

This item was not discussed.