

Capital Projects Study Committee

A League Study: How It Works

A Presentation by Sandy Waters

4:30 pm, November 1, 2021



LWV GREENWICH

- Founded in 1920 as part of the passage of the women's right to vote in the US Constitution.
- An all-volunteer, membership-based organization. Led by Board of Directors.
- Exists to inform voters and to engage the public in the democratic process.
- Has 501(c)(3) IRS Tax Status. Tax deductibility of all membership fees and donations.
- Is nonpartisan = No support for any political candidate.
- Takes stands on issues after thorough study and membership support only.
- Advocacy is permitted under the tax code, provided we do not spend more than 20% of our annual budget on it.



History of this Study Process

- Identification of Capital Projects as an Issue to Study – February 2019
- Board approval of Study “call” – April 2019
- Membership approval of “call” – June 2019
- Study Committee formed – Summer 2019: chaired by Cyndy Anderson
- COVID halted meetings – March 2020
- Reapproval of “revised call” – March 2021 and June 2021.
- Board approved new Chairman, Steve Waters, September 2021, with request for a female Co-Chairman.

Capital Projects Study Project Approved Scope

Inasmuch as the Town is embarking on a sustained effort to rebuild its infrastructure in the upcoming 10-year period, the LWVG proposes a study of the process used to determine which projects will be selected, calendared and funded.

The study is to include but not be limited to:

- Planning process used by the BET and various proponents of projects: First Selectman, BOE, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and others;
- Approval process: how it is done by the BET, Planning and Zoning and the various proponents; public awareness, public hearings, surveys;
- Funding process: priority setting;
- Relationship to Plan of Conservation Development Plan and how projects relate to the plan;
- Transparency: awareness of the public, during the planning, approval and implementation;
- Influence of state and federal proposals on the Town, including laws and regulations;
- Oversight of the planned projects: role of various proponents in approvals, implementations and result.

Committee Member Attributes

- Undecided on the ultimate study outcome;
- Respectful and able to work effectively with a group of people who may not agree;
- Committed to serving the best interests of Greenwich as a whole;
- Reliable and willing to do the work to research and to understand the many different issues involved;
- Representative of different skills and points of view;
- Willing to support the recommendation of the majority as in any democratic process;
- Respectful of the League's nonpartisan IRS status, which prevents public support for any political candidate using the League's name and personal position; and
- Familiar with the Committee's process and the importance of developing a Consensus statement that the League Board and membership must ultimately approve.

Committee Process

- Informs Members and the Public through articles in the newsletter or on website, information forums, tours, etc.
- Sets the timeline,
- Organizes and gathers research information,
- Maintains an unbiased approach to the study, and
- Prepares for the consensus meeting presentation.

Reaching Consensus: Questions, Discussion, Approvals

- The Consensus Meeting.
 - Develops a discussion outline, perfects a presentation and has a briefing meeting to prepare for the consensus meeting.
 - Presents the highlights of issue research at the consensus meeting.
 - Oversees the consensus meeting to ensure there is constructive consensus discussion using the consensus questions.
- Formulation of position statement using the consensus reached by the **members**.
- Board decides if consensus was reached by the **members** at the consensus meeting, reviews and approves the position statement, and adopts the position.
- Board may take action on the position immediately after they adopt it as a new local position.
- Members reaffirm all local positions at the annual business meeting.

Important Dates

- November 15 – Deadline for submissions to LWV Newsletter
- November 17, 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
- January 19, 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
- February 16, 2022,
 - 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
 - 6:30 pm – Program Planning Meeting with Members
- March 15, 2022 – Deadline for Submissions to LWV Newsletter
- March 16, 2022, 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
- April 20, 2022, 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
- May 18, 2022, 5:30 pm – LWVG Board Meeting
- June 1, 2022, 5:30 pm – LWV Greenwich Annual Meeting

www.lwvgreenwich.org

