



Water Quality Improvement Projects

Shelter Island

**WQIP Referendum for Voters
November 8, 2016**



The Purpose

- Permit the Town of Shelter Island to use up to 20% of the Community Preservation Fund for water quality improvement projects
- Improve water quality on Shelter Island through projects such as:
 - Wastewater treatment improvement projects
 - Non-point source abatement and control programs
 - Aquatic habitat restoration
 - Pollution prevention
 - Operation of the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program
- Projects that have as a primary purpose the accommodation of new growth as opposed to the remediation of water quality do not qualify for funding under New York law.



Wastewater Treatment Improvement Projects

- Nitrogen contamination threatens our Island's drinking water, wetlands, and shoreline.
- Conventional wastewater treatment systems (septic systems, etc.) cannot remove nitrogen from effluent effectively.
- Currently, innovative and advanced wastewater treatment systems remove approximately two-thirds of the nitrogen. As technology improves, it is anticipated that even more nitrogen will be removed.
- A major focus of WQIP will be to replace conventional septic systems with innovative and advanced systems.



Wastewater Treatment Improvement Projects (continued)

- Eligible projects may include:
 - Incentive or rebate program to upgrade existing conventional septic systems to advanced systems
 - Stormwater collection systems
 - Vessel pump-out stations
- Not included:
 - Maintenance or other costs incurred after completion of a project
 - Ordinary maintenance or repair of existing facilities
 - Projects having a primary purpose to permit or accommodate new growth

Non-point Source Abatement and Control Programs

- Projects that address non-point source pollution caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into wetlands, coastal waters and ground water.



Aquatic Habitat Restoration

- Projects designed to improve the waters of ponds, bogs, wetlands, bays, sounds, streams, etc.
- The purpose is to support spawning, nursery, wintering, migratory, nesting, breeding, feeding or foraging environment for fish and wildlife.



Pollution Prevention

- Projects designed for the reduction, avoidance, or elimination of the use of toxic or hazardous substances
- Does not include incineration, off-site or out-of-production recycling, end-of-pipe treatment or pollution control



Operation of the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program

- Funding for water quality improvement projects sponsored by the Peconic Bay National Estuary Program
- The use of such funds shall only be utilized to match federal, state, county, or other public or private funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis and shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the annual amount appropriated for water quality improvement projects.

Funding

The Community Preservation Fund (CPF) collects a 2% tax paid on property purchased on Shelter Island. The CPF funds are only spent on property acquisition and stewardship of acquired properties.

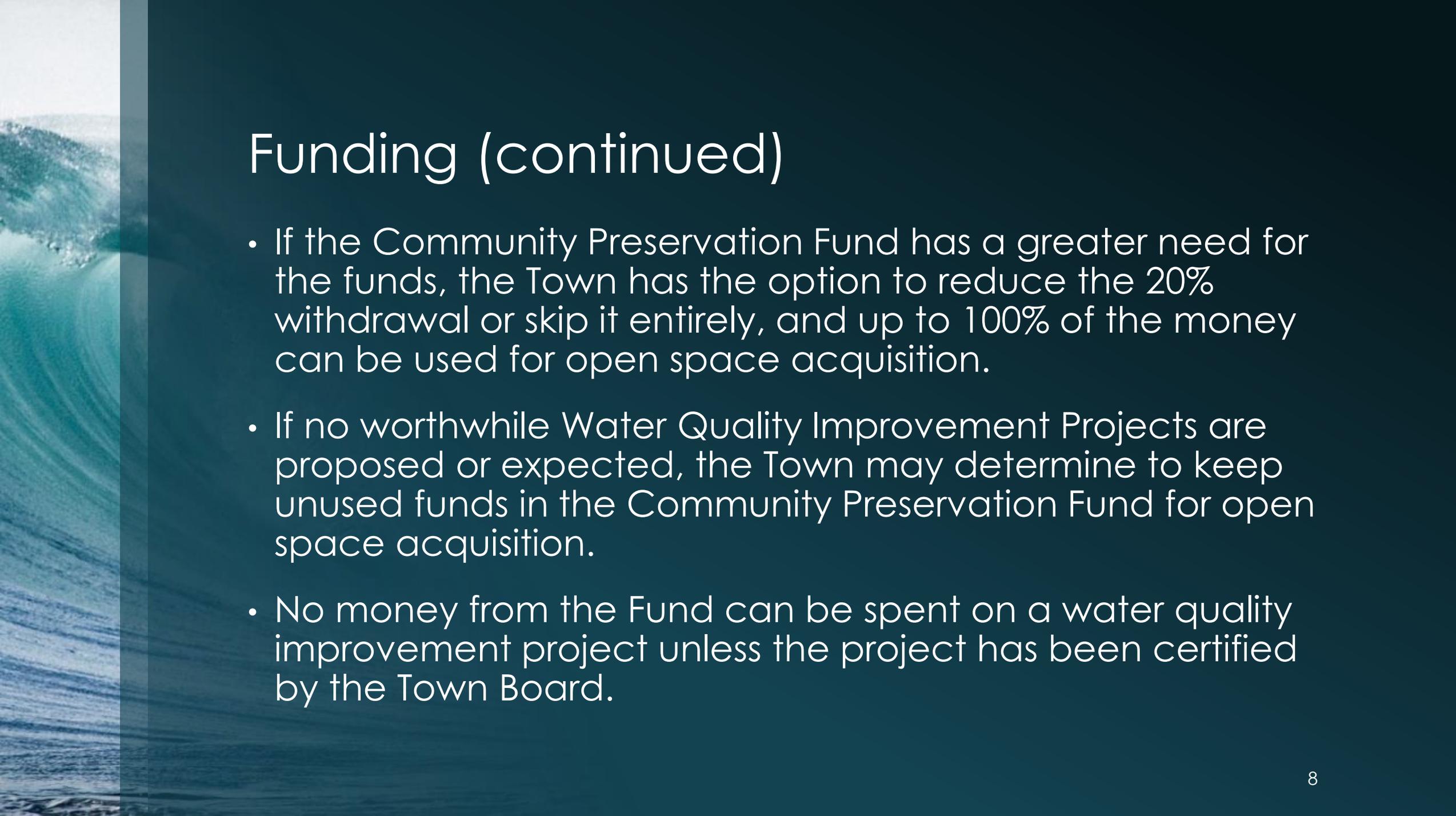
If the referendum is approved, up to 20% of that money may be used for Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP).

For example, if CPF collects \$2,000,000, up to \$400,000 may be used for WQIP.

EXAMPLE

If CPF collects, \$2,000,000, up to \$400,000 may be used for water quality improvement projects





Funding (continued)

- If the Community Preservation Fund has a greater need for the funds, the Town has the option to reduce the 20% withdrawal or skip it entirely, and up to 100% of the money can be used for open space acquisition.
- If no worthwhile Water Quality Improvement Projects are proposed or expected, the Town may determine to keep unused funds in the Community Preservation Fund for open space acquisition.
- No money from the Fund can be spent on a water quality improvement project unless the project has been certified by the Town Board.

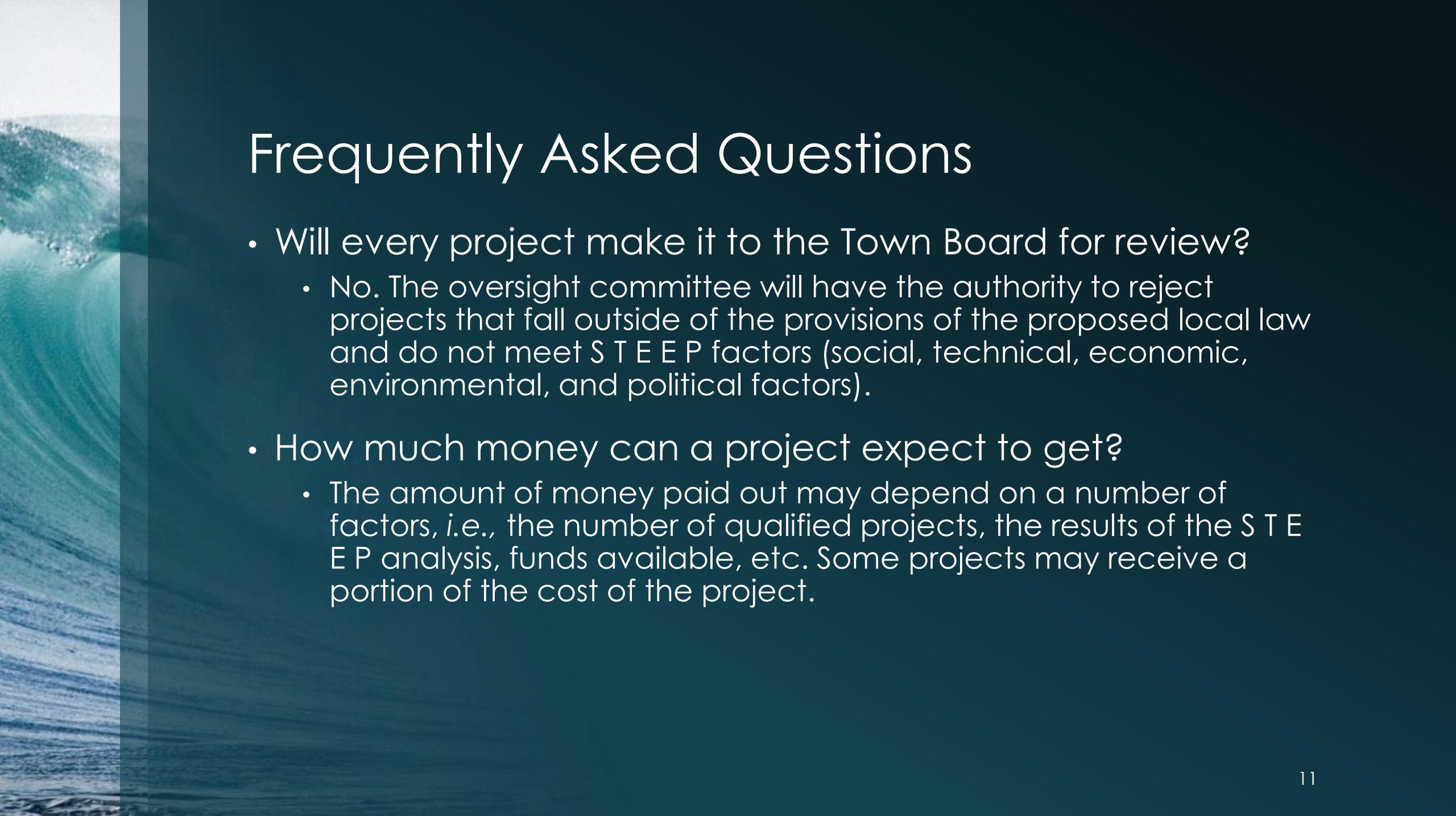
How Will It Work?

- A WQIP oversight committee will be appointed, including an engineer to advise on technical matters.
- Applicants will submit a detailed proposal for a project.
- The committee will evaluate the project proposal.
- Project assessment will target 5 specific factors (S T E E P):
 - **S**ocial
 - **T**echnical
 - **E**conomic
 - **E**nvironmental
 - **P**olitical
- The goal of the S T E E P assessment is to evaluate projects on a level playing field so that funds are allocated fairly to the best projects for water quality improvement.



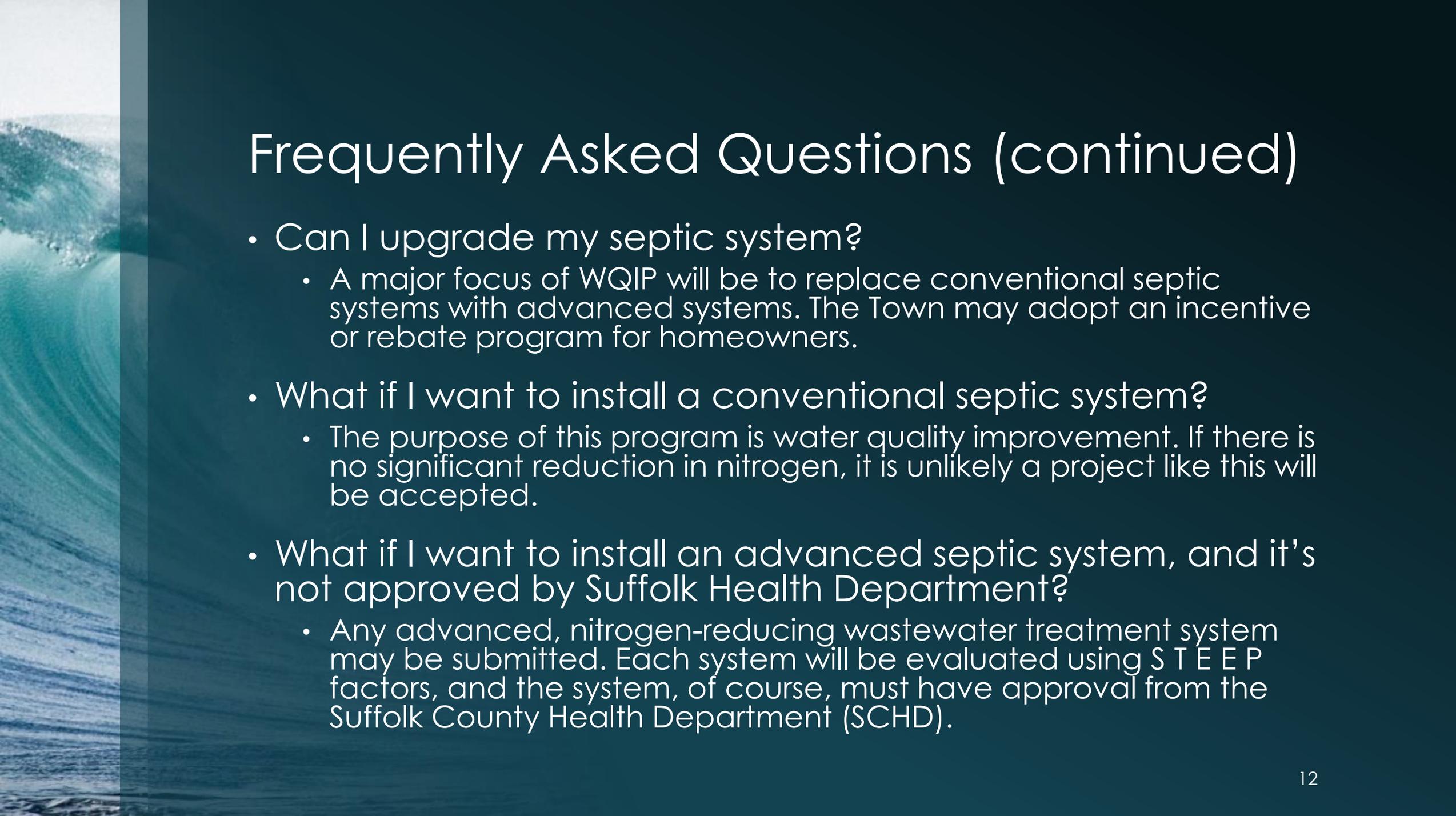
How Will It Work? (continued)

- The S T E E P technical factor includes a calculation that measures the potential nitrogen reduction factoring the cost of the project and the amount of water affected.
- If multiple projects are submitted, the committee will prepare a prioritized list for the Town Board's consideration.
- A public hearing will be held for public review and comment on the projects.
- After the hearing, the Town will make a determination on the proposed projects and adopt an Annual Water Quality Improvement Plan.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Will every project make it to the Town Board for review?
 - No. The oversight committee will have the authority to reject projects that fall outside of the provisions of the proposed local law and do not meet S T E E P factors (social, technical, economic, environmental, and political factors).
- How much money can a project expect to get?
 - The amount of money paid out may depend on a number of factors, *i.e.*, the number of qualified projects, the results of the S T E E P analysis, funds available, etc. Some projects may receive a portion of the cost of the project.

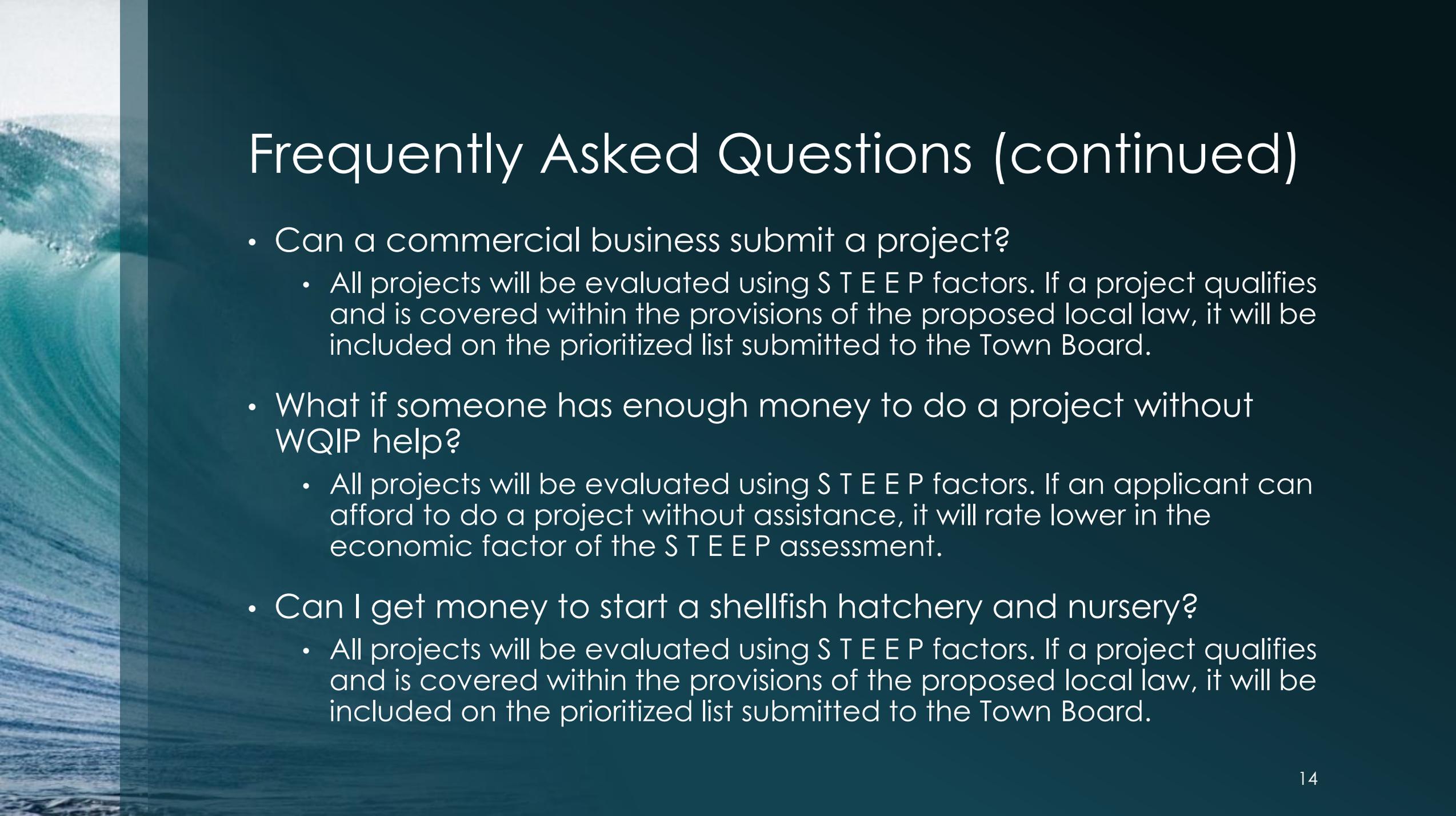


Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- Can I upgrade my septic system?
 - A major focus of WQIP will be to replace conventional septic systems with advanced systems. The Town may adopt an incentive or rebate program for homeowners.
- What if I want to install a conventional septic system?
 - The purpose of this program is water quality improvement. If there is no significant reduction in nitrogen, it is unlikely a project like this will be accepted.
- What if I want to install an advanced septic system, and it's not approved by Suffolk Health Department?
 - Any advanced, nitrogen-reducing wastewater treatment system may be submitted. Each system will be evaluated using S T E E P factors, and the system, of course, must have approval from the Suffolk County Health Department (SCHD).

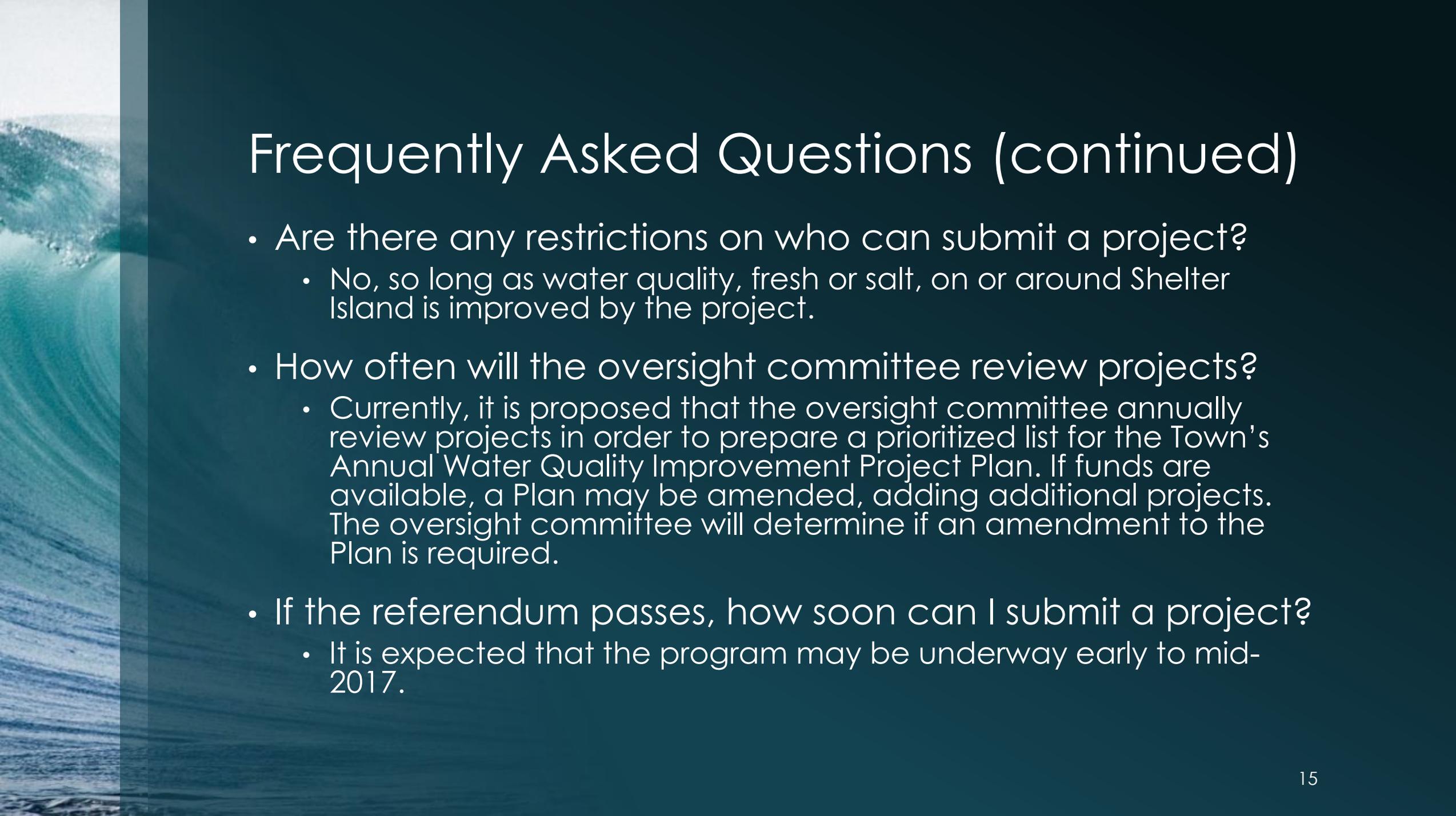
Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- Will the public be able to attend the oversight committee meetings?
 - The meetings will be subject to the Open Meetings Law.
- I need to replace the gutters on my house. Can I get money for that?
 - The proposed local law states, “Project funding may not be used for the ordinary maintenance or repair of existing facilities.” Therefore, it is likely that project proposals like this will be rejected.

The background of the slide features a vertical strip on the left side showing a close-up of ocean waves with white foam, transitioning into a dark teal gradient that covers the rest of the slide.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- Can a commercial business submit a project?
 - All projects will be evaluated using S T E E P factors. If a project qualifies and is covered within the provisions of the proposed local law, it will be included on the prioritized list submitted to the Town Board.
- What if someone has enough money to do a project without WQIP help?
 - All projects will be evaluated using S T E E P factors. If an applicant can afford to do a project without assistance, it will rate lower in the economic factor of the S T E E P assessment.
- Can I get money to start a shellfish hatchery and nursery?
 - All projects will be evaluated using S T E E P factors. If a project qualifies and is covered within the provisions of the proposed local law, it will be included on the prioritized list submitted to the Town Board.

The background of the slide features a vertical strip on the left side showing a close-up of ocean waves with white foam, transitioning into a dark teal gradient that covers the rest of the slide.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

- Are there any restrictions on who can submit a project?
 - No, so long as water quality, fresh or salt, on or around Shelter Island is improved by the project.
- How often will the oversight committee review projects?
 - Currently, it is proposed that the oversight committee annually review projects in order to prepare a prioritized list for the Town's Annual Water Quality Improvement Project Plan. If funds are available, a Plan may be amended, adding additional projects. The oversight committee will determine if an amendment to the Plan is required.
- If the referendum passes, how soon can I submit a project?
 - It is expected that the program may be underway early to mid-2017.



Thank you.

Please vote on November 8th.

A copy of the proposed local law is available on
www.shelterislandtown.us.