

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING UPDATES

You may recall, we are the first New Jersey municipality to ask the public to tell us how to spend part of the existing capital budget. You suggested 33 ideas. Thirteen projects were approved for the ballot. The three top projects have been funded.

You probably have seen the progress on the sidewalk repair program. Residents interested in this cost sharing repair program have applied to be part of the program. This will go out for contracting soon. Now that spring has finally arrived, this kind of outdoor work will be able to move forward.

The improved street lighting around the business district will also be accomplished this summer.

The pedestrian bridge at Lake Topanemus is an example of the hoops you sometimes have to jump through to get a project approved. The lake belongs to the borough, the road is a township road and work in or around the dam requires approvals from both Monmouth County and the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection.

The permitting process is almost complete and the dam should be in place sometime during the fishing season this year.