

Excerpt from May 12 e-mail from Victor Nuovo

“...I also have another matter that I plan to bring up during Board Member concerns. I will ask that we change the name of the Infrastructure Committee back to Public Works Committee. "Infrastructure" literally means "underground structures", i.e. sewer and water lines, and power lines if they are buried (the Latin "infra" means beneath or hidden.”

Excerpt from May 14 e-mail from Victor Nuovo

Hi Kathleen,

Just a follow up on last Tuesday's meeting. Would you please include on the agenda for the next SB meeting a proposal to change the name of the "Infrastructure Committee" to "Public Works Committee". In fact, this would not be a change, but a restoration.

Here's the Selectboard discussion from the Board's May 26 meeting:

11. Consideration of Re-naming the
"Infrastructure Committee" to "Public Works Committee"

Seeley said at the May 21st Infrastructure Committee meeting, they discussed Nuovo's request that the name of the Infrastructure Committee be changed back to the original name, Public Works Committee. She said as she recalls, there were 3 in favor of keeping the name Infrastructure Committee, one who was in favor of going back to Public Works Committee, and 3 who could go either way. She said Luther Tenny had even suggested it could be named something else, such as Facilities Committee, or something similar.

She said she thought back to why the name was changed to begin with, and she thinks it was because at that time they were looking at other projects that were outside the scope of Public Works, and she thinks the name change was an attempt to reflect that. Seeley said she had a concern about how much staff time it would take to change the name again, so she asked Ramsay to calculate an approximation of the time involved to do the changes. Ramsay said she had checked with staff, and they're thinking only 1 to 2 hours to do the changes.

Carpenter said he recalls the name change was an attempt to encompass more into one committee, but it could be called something else other than Infrastructure Committee. Nuovo felt that the term infrastructure refers to things "underground" and doesn't include buildings. Werner said he thinks the term public works is thought about too narrowly, and that infrastructure was more of a buzz word used in the past few years. He also thought public works had more name recognition, and Khan said it was definitely easier to say than infrastructure.

Carpenter asked Seeley to take these comments back to the Infrastructure Committee again and provide the Board with a recommendation. Artim said that "public works" is what the professionals have historically called themselves and it encompasses many things.