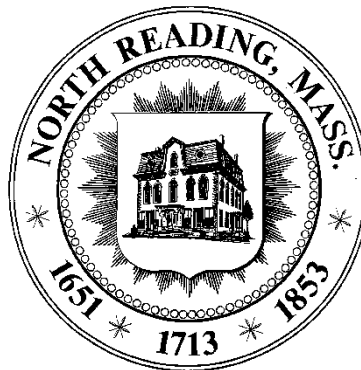


Town of North Reading

Wastewater System Planning/Design

Select Board Update
Monday, January 9, 2023



Where Do We Go From Here

(from November 7th Select Board meeting)

- **Delay Holding a Special Town Meeting to Allow More Time to Consider and Incorporate Feedback from the Community**
- **Investigate Other Financing Models for a More Affordable Betterment**
 - Consider having the General Fund pay a greater portion of the project cost in order to Reduce the Amount of the Project Cost to be Assessed as Betterments & Sewer Privilege Fees
 - Consider Offering a Residential Opt Out or similar strategy that would not assess betterments to Residential Properties unless Property Owner Chooses to Connect.
 - More Time to Consider Intergrating Other Funding Sources to Reduce the Cost of the Municipal Wastewater System to the Taxpayer and/or Abutters to the Sewer
- **Conduct Additional Outreach Efforts on Other Financing Models**
 - Review New Financing Models with Boards & Committees
 - Utilize Direct Contact to Reach/Engage Property Owners (Reverse 911/Mailings)
 - Hold Meeting with Abutters of the Municipal Wastewater System
 - Hold Community Wide Meeting to Discuss Cost & Benefits of Sewer System
- **Proceed with Final Design of Route 114 Section of the Wastewater Main**
 - Final Design for this Section of Wastewater Main was included in the Oct 2021 Appropriation
 - Continue Discussions with GLSD Communities about Final Route to GLSD Plant

Potential Project Model Changes

- Significantly **reduce betterments**?
- **Eliminate betterments** and require abutters only to pay a fee when they choose to connect to the system?
- **Shift (in whole or in part)** the amount of the project cost that was to be funded by betterments to now be paid by **taxpayers townwide**?
- **Set fees to connect to the Sewer** at amounts significantly less than the amounts contemplated under the betterment model (\$46,000 for single family homes / \$36,000 for condos)?
- Plan to **use revenues from Sewer connection fees** to reduce the amount charged to taxpayers townwide?
- **Incorporate additional funding sources** that have become available in recent weeks into financing projections?
 - \$1.5 million in federal funding for final design (Congressman Moulton; Senators Warren and Markey)
 - \$250,000 in state funding for design/permitting (Rep. Jones and Senator Tarr)
 - State Revolving Fund loans, which reduce the interest rate from the 5% projected in the fall to 2.4% or less for the majority of project costs
- Plan to **use some or all of new property tax revenue** attributed to sewer new growth to directly offset the amount charged to taxpayers townwide?

Potential Schedule

- **Monday, January 9, 2023** Select Board Wastewater Presentation Update
- **TBD** Select Board Workshop on Wastewater Project Financing
- **TBD** Conduct Workshop with other Town Boards & Committees
- **TBD** Public Outreach Meeting #1
- **TBD** Public Outreach Meeting #2
- **TBD** Public Outreach Meeting #3
- **TBD** Select Board Actions on Wastewater Project Financing
 - Select Board Approval of Wastewater Project Financing Model
 - Town Meeting Warrant signed by Select Board
 - Select Board vote to call Special Election for Debt Exclusion
- **TBD** Select Board Warrant Article Informational Hearing
- **TBD** Special Town Meeting for Wastewater Project Borrowing
- **TBD** Special Election for Wastewater Project Debt Exclusion