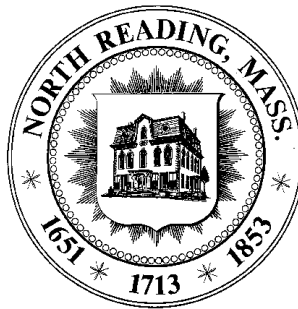


Town of North Reading

Wastewater System Planning/Design

Select Board Update Presentation
Monday, November 7, 2022





Municipal Wastewater Planning to Date

- Town Meeting Appropriated \$2,893,000 in Oct of 2021 to Facilitate the Preliminary Design of the Municipal Wastewater Project & Conduct a Municipal Wastewater Financial Study
- Since Oct 2021, held Multiple Wastewater Working Group Meetings to Guide the Progress of the Project's Preliminary Design and the Financial Study
- Briefed the Select Board on the Results of the Design & Study
- Met with Other Boards & Committees to Present these Results and to Get their Feedback
- Conducted Public Outreach Meetings with Abutters to the Sewer and with Residents Outside of the Sewer District to Gather Comments and Input on the Financial Model Being Considered for the Project



Outreach Efforts Conducted

- **Friday, September 16th**
Select Board Workshop Presentation
- **Wednesday, September 28th**
Select Board Meeting Presentation
- **Tuesday, October 4th**
Presentation to CPC & EDC
- **Wednesday, October 5th**
Presentation to Finance Committee
- **Thursday, October 6th**
Presentation to the Board of Health
- **Tuesday, October 11th**
In-Person Community Workshop
- **Monday, October 17th**
Presentation to the School Committee
- **Monday, October 17th**
Select Board Betterment Decision Points Discussion
- **Tuesday, October 18th**
In-Person Resident Abutter Workshop
- **Tuesday, October 25th**
In-Person Business Abutter Workshop
- **Wednesday, November 2nd**
Lunch Presentation at the Senior Center
- **Wednesday, November 2nd**
Virtual Community Workshop



What Did We Hear From Our Outreach

- Betterments, Connection Costs and Additional Debt Exclusion Taxes are Unaffordable for Many Residential Homeowners
- Betterments, Connection Costs and Additional Debt Exclusion Taxes are Unaffordable for Many Existing Small Businesses
- Sewer Privilege Fees are too High and will Limit New Growth
- The Sewer Project Benefits the Entire Town so the General Fund Should Pay All or a Greater Portion of the Project Cost
- Properties with Functioning Septic Systems Should Not Have to Connect to Sewer.
- Sewer Shouldn't Go Down North St & Lowell Rd, the Area is Not Commercial
- Apportioned Betterment Liens should be Transferrable to Buyers of Property so Betterments can Continue to be Apportioned to New Property Owners

Where Do We Go From Here

- **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