

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACING THE ISSUES

Old Lyme is a unique community with small town charm. We believe that a community solution will preserve what we all love about Old Lyme.

Why Are We Conducting This Study?

- In the early 1980's, the State of CT DEP targeted Shoreline Communities in an attempt to connect them to centralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities. This was the DEP's answer to water pollution in Long Island Sound
- In the early 1990's, the Town of Old Lyme created a Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and their mission was Sewer Avoidance. To support this effort, the Town has monitored ground water pollution, required regular septic pump outs, and aided homeowners in repairs when their septic systems have failed
- In the past 5 years, one Chartered Beach Association has installed sewers that connect to the New London Wastewater Treatment Facility, and two other Chartered Beach Associations are under Consent Order by the CT DEEP to hook up by June, 2016. One other Chartered Beach Association has begun the study to determine if they should hook up as well
- With up to 4 Beach Communities hooked up to the NL Facility, it is likely that the remaining shoreline area will be hooked up, including all of the commercial properties along Route 156
- It is time for the Town to take responsible action, understanding that inaction may result in solutions that are not in the best interests of the Town

What Will the Feasibility Study Do?

Through the study, we will:

- Secure Grand Funding
- Identify appropriate land for wastewater effluent
- Perform soil testing within the time frame dictated by DEEP (April-May)
- Determine feasibility of a Community based solution
- Determine Wastewater Needs in Project Areas (basically the shoreline up to White Sand Beach)
- Evaluate Local Wastewater Treatment Alternatives
- Evaluate Local Wastewater Collection Alternatives
- Confirm Regional Wastewater Management Alternative
- Develop Recommended Plan and Implementation Schedule
- Allow the best opportunity to work as one community to address our wastewater needs

What are the Benefits of this Action to the Community?

- In keeping with Sewer Avoidance, we will not be connected to a centralized waste water treatment facility, located far from our town, the cost of which is controlled by others and paid by users.
- We are proposing a local solution, giving us more control over costs and essential decisions for our community.
- Our groundwater stays within the community, recharging what we use in our daily lives. Most experts agree that water is one of our most valuable assets and will come at a premium in time.
- Old Lyme will be a model for other small communities in addressing their wastewater needs locally.
- We will not be adding to the pollution of Long Island Sound, either through our densely populated shoreline areas, or by sending our waste to a treatment facility that ultimately dumps into a river which flows into Long Island Sound.
- When the New London Facility expands, and we believe it must in the future, we will not be expected to pay for the Capitol expenses of that expansion. Federal dollars for Centralized systems are drying up, so this will be costly to the communities that utilize the facility.
- This provides the best opportunity for reuse, recycle solutions. Always better for the environment.
- Implementation can be phased in, as needs of neighborhoods are evaluated and understood.
- It is likely that not ALL households will be required to hook up, if they already have a 100% compliant system, but *without* a local solution, a Consent Order to hook up to sewers is likely in the future. The cost of that infrastructure could impact everyone's tax bill.

Wastewater Management Task Force Members:

Kurt Zemba, Chairman; Robert McCarthy; Douglas Wilkinson; Dr. Frank Chan; Richard Prendergast; Donna Bednar; Dr. Ernest Lorda; Tom Risom and Dimitri Tolchinski

The March 25 Presentation will be taped and broadcast on Comcast Public Access Channel 14 at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30pm

Thursday, March 28, immediately following the Board of Selectmen meeting (begins at 7:30pm)

Sunday, March 31, 7:30pm

Monday, April 1, 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 4, immediately following the Board of Selectmen meeting (begins at 7:30pm)

Sunday, April 7, 7:30pm

A Special Town Meeting to vote on appropriating funds for the Feasibility Study is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30pm in the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School Auditorium.