

Town of Groton MA Sewer Commission  
Four Corners Sewer District Rules and Regulations  
Effective April 24, 2024

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**



**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT**

**ADOPTED: April 23, 2018**

**Amended : February 3, 2021**

**Amended: March 30, 2022**

**Amended: March 24, 2024**

**Amended: April 24, 2024**

**EFFECTIVE: April 24, 2024**

RULES REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COLLECTION OF USER FEES FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS FOR OPERATING, MAINTAINING, AND REPAIRING THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM TO SERVE THE FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT AND PAYMENT TO THE TOWN OF AYER, MASSACHUSETTS FOR TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER: THESE RULES ADOPTED BY THE SEWER COMMISSION IN THE TOWN OF GROTON, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 83, SECTION 16, OF THE GENERAL LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Chapter 397: Four Corners Sewer District**

**Rules and Regulations**

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town of Groton Select Board on April 2, 2018

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Adopted by the Groton Sewer Commission on April 23, 2018; amended February 3, 2021, March 30, 2022, April 24, 2024]

**Attachment 1 – Appendix A: Fee Schedule**

**Attachment 2 – Appendix B: Town of Ayer Rules and Regulations**

**Attachment 3 - Regulations for Sewer Design and Construction** 

## **Part 1. Regulation for Payment of Wastewater System Costs**

### **Article I. Purpose**

#### **§ 397-1. General.**

##### **A.**

The purpose of this regulation for payment of wastewater system costs is to provide a basis for raising sufficient revenue to pay the costs to collect and treat wastewater generated by the *Four Corners Sewer District* in the Town of Groton; *the cost of treatment of wastewater by the Town of Ayer and said fees*

##### **.B.**

The regulation is intended to provide a fair and equitable means for establishing Connection Fees for properties within the *Four Corners Sewer District*, and for properties which are made a part of the Four Corners Sewer District.

C. An application to connect to the Groton Four Corners Sewer System does not establish vested rights to sewer capacity. Sewer system capacity will be reserved upon the Sewer Commission signoff on a building permit specifying available capacity for the project. Sewer capacity is not guaranteed if a complete application for a sewer connection permit for the project is not received within one year from the date of the building permit.

D. The filing of a subdivision plan with the Planning Board does not establish a vested right to sewer capacity. Capacity is guaranteed only when the Sewer Commission approves a permit for sewer extension as shown on the subdivision plan, or sends a letter to the Planning Board stating that capacity is available in the Groton Four Corners Sewer System to serve the subdivision.

E. An application for Site Plan Review does not establish rights to sewer capacity. Sewer capacity is guaranteed upon approval of an application for a permit to connect to the Groton Four Corners Sewer System.

F. A request from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for sewer capacity in relation to a filing for a 40B comprehensive permit will require the Sewer Commission to inform the ZBA whether sewer capacity is available to serve the proposed development and what improvements are required, if any, to the municipal sewer system to ensure adequate sewer service. Sewer capacity is allocated and reserved as of the date when the Sewer Commission informs the ZBA of its determination.

##### **G. Expiration of Permit –**

1. A permit to connect to the sewer system will expire if the work is not initiated within one year (365

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days) from the date of issuance. Upon permit expiration, a new permit, including payment of the permit fee, will be required for the future connection and inspection(s).

2. A sewer permit will become void if a request to cancel the permit is received from either the owner or drainlayer who originally applied for the permit. No refunds will be issued for canceled or duplicate permits.

H. The Town of Groton Sewer Commission may extend the duration of the permit for a reasonable period. Requests for extension of the permit period must be submitted in writing to the Groton Sewer Commission in advance of the expiration and must state the reason for request.

### § 397-2 **Mandatory Sewer Connection Bylaw.**

Refer to Chapter **190** of the Code of Groton

## Article II. Definitions

### § 397-3. Word usage.

For the purpose of this regulation, the following words and terms used herein are hereby defined. Other words or terms and phrases not defined herein shall be construed according to the common and approved usage of the language, but technical words, terms and phrases which may have acquired a particular and appropriate meaning in law shall be construed and understood according to such meaning. The definitions contained in ***Part 2 Usage Fee Regulations and those referenced by Part 3 Regulation of Sewer Design, Construction, and Use*** are hereby incorporated herein.

### § 397-4. Terms defined.

As used in this Part 1, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### BUILDING SPACE

The area within a building or structure which is capable of being leased or sold independently. By way of example, a building may contain 4 separate offices; or several separate retail spaces; or a certain number of apartments or dwelling units. The building containing 4 separate offices would have 4 Building Spaces; a building containing several separate retail spaces would have Building Spaces equal to the number of separate retail spaces; and a building containing a certain number of apartments or dwelling units would have Building Spaces equal to the number of apartments or dwelling units.

#### COMMON SEWER

The sewer lines and pipe of the Four Corners Sewer District located in the public way for the conveyance of wastewater to the connection to Town of Ayer's sewer lines or pipes. The Common Sewer ends at the point where it crosses the property line of property abutting the public way. The responsibility for maintenance of the Common Sewer by the Sewer Commission is only within the bounds of the public way and ends at the property line.

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CONNECT and CONNECTION

The actual permanent joining of a building drain or building sewer to the common sewer of the Four Corners Sewer District.

CONNECTION FEE

The minimum fee established by the Sewer Commission which it will charge the owner of the property in calculating the sewer connection fee for each Building Space at the time of connection to the Common Sewer. Changes in Building Space use which result in increased wastewater flow (as set forth in 310 CMR 15.00 (Title V)) will be charged a Connection Fee for the increased flow at the time a building permit is issued for the change of use.

EQUIVALENT RESIDENTIAL UNIT

Equivalent Residential Unit (“ERU”) shall mean the design flow for a three-bedroom house as calculated by using system design flows found in 310 CMR 15.203 (or its successor). One ERU equals 330 gallons a day.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER

The common sewer owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Groton for the *Four Corners Sewer District* through the Sewer Commission, its successors or its assigns.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

The area of Town of Groton within the boundaries shown on the plan approved at the Special Town Meeting on April 27, 2015, and as amended.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER SYSTEM

The common sewer system located in the Four Corners Sewer District.

OPERATIONAL YEAR

The twelve-month period beginning July 1 of one year and ending June 30 the following year.

SEWER COMMISSION

The presently elected Groton Sewer Commission, its successors or assigns.

SEWER CONNECTION FEE

The fee established by the Sewer Commission which it will charge the owner of the property for each Building Space at the time of connection to the Common Sewer.. Changes in Building Space use which result in increased wastewater flow (as set forth in 310 CMR 15.00 (Title V)) will be charged a Sewer Connection Fee for the increased flow at the time a permit is issued for the change of use.

SEWER UNIT

A single, integral number which the Town of Groton computes for each piece of property connected to the Four Corners Sewer System. One sewer unit equals 70.76 water units.

## Article III. Sewer Connection Fee

### § 397-5. Charges established; calculation.

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A. A Sewer Connection Fee shall be charged to the owner of the property at the time a Building Permit is requested with work described to be new building space or a modification to existing building space which will result in increased wastewater flow or a connection to the Common Sewer, or an application for a sewer connection or change of use is filed with the Sewer Commission., The sewer connection fee shall be paid prior to the issuance of a building permit. Each Building Space within a building or structure shall be assessed a separate Sewer Connection Fee. Changes in a Building Space which result in increased wastewater flow (as set forth in 310 CMR 15.00 (Title V)) will be charged a Connection Fee for the increased flow.

B

The Four Corners Sewer District sewer connection fee shall be calculated as follows: For new connections, use, the daily waste water flow shall be calculated using design flow figures contained in 310 CMR 15.203 (or its successor). This figure shall be divided by 330 gal/day and the result shall be known as the "Equivalent Residential Unit" (ERU). If the result is less than one the result shall be rounded up to one. All other results shall be the actual number as calculated to the fourth decimal place. For example: A four bedroom house has a flow of 440 gal/day.  $440/330 = 1.3333$ . The ERU is 1.3333. The ERU shall be multiplied by the then current minimum Connection Fee and the product shall be the Sewer Connection Fee.

The Four Corners Sewer District Connection Fee for changes in building space use which will result in increased flow the increase shall be determined using the design flow figures contained in 310 CMR 15.203 (or its successor), and subtracting the current use design flow from the proposed use design flow. The increase shall be divided by 330 gal/day and the result shall be known as the "Equivalent Residential Unit" (ERU). For example: A four bedroom house has a flow of 440 gal/day.  $440-330 = 110$ ;  $110/330 = .3333$ . The Increased ERU is .3333. All results shall be the actual number as calculated to the fourth decimal place. The Increased ERU shall be multiplied by the then current minimum Connection Fee and the product shall be the Sewer Connection Fee. Changes in Building Space Use which will result in a decreased flow shall not be subject to a Sewer Connection Fee; nor shall any such decreased flow result in a refund of any previously paid Sewer Connection Fee.

C

The Four Corners Sewer District Sewer Connection fee shall be the fee which is in effect at the earliest time a building permit is requested, or an application for a sewer connection or an application for change of use is filed with the Sewer Commission.

D

The amount of the Four Corners Sewer District sewer connection fee for each operational year shall be set by the Sewer Commission, or its successors, after a public hearing.

E.

The Sewer Commission, after a public hearing, notice of which is given at least two weeks prior to the hearing, may waive or reduce the Connection Fee or any other fees if it determines in its sole discretion that it is in the interest of the users of the Four Corners Sewer System to do so.

## Part 2. Usage Fee Regulations

### Article IV. Purpose

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§ 397-6. Revenue generation; establishment; responsibility for payment.

A.

The purpose of the Four Corners Sewer District Usage Fee Regulation is to provide a means for the Town of Groton, acting through the Sewer Commission, to raise sufficient revenues to pay the expenses associated with the administration, operation, construction, maintenance, and repair of the Four Corners Sewer System, including collecting sewers, interceptor sewers, pumping stations, force mains and system appurtenances to serve the Four Corners Sewer System in the Town of Groton; the cost of land and easements, the cost of initial and additional capacity in the Town of Ayer's facilities when it becomes necessary, the Town of Ayer Connection Charge and for the treatment and disposal of its wastewater at the Town of Ayer's wastewater treatment plant.

B.

The Sewer Commission shall establish just and equitable annual usage fees based upon water usage for the use of the Four Corners Sewer System. The Commission shall review and adjust the fees on an annual basis; however, the Sewer Commission shall have the right to calculate and bill owners on a per wastewater basis. In doing so, the Sewer Commission will measure the volume of wastewater flowing from connected property to the public sewer, convert it to "water" units (as hereafter defined), and bill by the same method as if billed on a water usage basis. When the usage fee is to be billed upon a wastewater usage basis, the Commission may use estimates of the volume of wastewater flowing from the connected property during the billing period. The estimate shall be based upon periodic measurements of the flow for a duration which, in the judgment of the Groton Sewer Commission, are sufficient to provide a reasonably accurate estimate of the actual flow for a billing period.

C.

Usage fees for the use of the Four Corners Sewer shall be paid by every owner of improved property connected to the public sewer.

## Article V. Definitions

§ 397-7. Word usage.

For the purpose of these regulations the following words and terms used herein are hereby defined or the meaning thereof explained. Other words or terms and phrases not defined herein shall be construed according to the common and approved usage of the language, but technical words, terms, and phrases which may have acquired a particular and appropriate meaning in law shall be construed and understood according to such meaning. The definitions contained in Regulation for Payment of Wastewater System Costs and those contained in the Regulations of Sewer Design, Construction and Use are hereby incorporated herein.

§ 397-8. Terms defined.

As used in this Part 2, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**BUILDING SPACE**

The area within a building or structure which is capable of being leased or sold independently. By way of example, a building may contain 4 separate offices; or several separate retail spaces; or a certain number of apartments or dwelling units. The building containing 4 separate offices would have 4 Building Spaces; a building containing several separate retail spaces

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would have Building Spaces equal to the number of separate retail spaces; and a building containing a certain number of apartments or dwelling units would have Building Spaces equal to the number of apartments or dwelling units

COMMON SEWER

The sewer lines and pipe of the Four Corners Sewer District located in the public way for the conveyance of wastewater to the connection to Town of Ayer's sewer lines or pipes. The Common Sewer ends at the point where it crosses the property line of property abutting the public way. The responsibility for maintenance of the Common Sewer by the Sewer Commission is only within the bounds of the public way and ends at the property line.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER

A common sewer owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Groton for the Four Corners Sewer District through the Sewer Commission, its successors or its assigns.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT

The area of the Town of Groton within the boundaries shown on the plan approved at the Special Town Meeting on April 27, 2015, as amended.

FOUR CORNERS SEWER SYSTEM

The common sewer system located in the Four Corners Sewer District.

INDUSTRIAL WASTES

The wastewater from industrial processes, trade, or business as distinct from domestic or sanitary wastes.

SEWER USAGE FEE

The amount paid by a property owner for the use of the Four Corners Sewer System.

WASTEWATER FLOW-UNIT BASIS

The volume of wastewater flowing from a property or Building Space to the Four Corners Sewer, measured in gallons and converted to Water Units. Said Volume may be determined by a flow meter or by a reasonable estimate made by the Sewer Commission.

WATER UNIT

Water use of 748 gallons.

## Article VI. Four Corners Sewer System Rate Structure

§ 397-9. Usage fee.

A.

A sewer usage fee shall be imposed upon the owner of each building space that is connected to the Four Corners Sewer System.

B.

The sewer usage fee shall be calculated and billed on a per-water-unit basis.

C.

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Four Corners Sewer System usage fees shall be determined by the Sewer Commission, or its successors, after a public hearing.

D.

The Sewer Commission reserves the right to assess a separate fee for the use of the common sewer by contract, or for users whose special circumstances deem that they, in the view of the Sewer Commission, require a separate fee.

E. The Sewer Commission shall have authority to establish various tiers of usage and to assign rates to such tiers as the Commission shall decide.

§ 397-10. Method of calculating annual per-water-unit usage fee.

A.

The following steps are followed to determine the per-water-unit usage fee for a fiscal year:

(1)

Determine the total revenue required to meet all costs of the Four Corners Sewer, including but not limited to depreciation, overhead, and all costs for treatment and disposal of wastewater by the Town of Ayer, debt service, maintenance, and any and all other expected costs for the coming and future years.

(2)

Subtract funds expected to be received from outside sources if any.

(3)

Call the result the "Estimated Annual Preliminary Required Revenue".

(4)

Estimate the amount of Four Corners Sewer System Connection Fees expected to be received during the year and which are not needed to meet connection fees assessed by the Town of Ayer and which may be due in future fiscal years and subtract the total from the Estimated Annual Preliminary Required Revenue.

(5)

Call the result the "Annual Net Required Revenue".

(6)

Determine the average number of water units that are expected to be used during the year. Call the results the "Estimated Average Number of Water Units."

(7)

Divide the Annual Net Required Revenue by the Estimated Average Number of Water Units. Call the result the "Annual Per-Water-Unit Usage Fee." Adjust this fee for use with a multi-tiered rate structure.

B.

The Sewer Commission shall make, after its public hearing, such adjustments to the calculated Annual Per-Water-Unit Usage Fee as it deems reasonable and necessary for the Four Corners Sewer by adjusting this fee for use with a multi-tiered rate structure as well as for the frequency (such as annual, semi-annual, quarterly or monthly) of the billing cycle.



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§ 397-11. Method of calculating the Four Corners Sewer District sewer usage fee.

A.

The following steps are followed to determine the Four Corners Sewer System sewer usage fee on a quarterly basis (or other billing frequency established by the Sewer Commission):

(1)

Determine the water usage for the billing period.

(a)

For properties served by a water department, the water usage for the billing period shall be as measured by the property's water meter or meters.

(b)

For residential and nonresidential properties not served by a water department, water usage for the billing period shall be as measured by a meter installed by the property owner and approved by the Sewer Commission.

(2)

Call the result the "Number of Water Units to be Billed."

(3)

Multiply the Number of Water Units to be Billed by the Annual Per Water Unit Usage Fee determined above.

(4)

Call the result the "Sewer Usage Fee."

B.

Sewer usage fees for industrial or other process wastes (nondomestic) will be determined separately by the Sewer Commission.

C.

A minimum sewer usage fee per individual property will be assessed, as indicated on the Four Corners Sewer District Fee Schedule (Appendix A).

D.

The Commission may establish other fee's for the administrative operation of Four Corners Sewer District constructing, maintaining, and upgrading collecting sewers, interceptor sewers, pumping stations, force mains and system appurtenances to serve the Four Corners Sewer System in the Town of Groton; the cost of land and easements; the cost of reimbursements to the Town of Ayer for Groton's share of Ayer's capital expenditures for the construction and upgrades of the Town of Ayer's wastewater collection and treatment facilities; and the cost of additional capacity in Ayer's facilities when it becomes necessary and for the treatment and disposal of its wastewater at the Town of Ayer's wastewater treatment plant.

E.

For residential and nonresidential properties; whether or not served by a water department, the Sewer Commission shall have the right, after hearing, to require a property owner to pay the costs, or a portion thereof, of acquisition of a device to measure in gallons the wastewater flowing from the connected property to the public sewer as well as the labor costs of the periodic monitoring of the flow, and to then bill the property owner based upon a wastewater-unit basis.

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(1) The Sewer Commission shall give at least 14 days' written notice of the hearing to the property owner by certified mail, return receipt requested. In the event such notice is returned undelivered, notice may be given as provided for in the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4.

(2) After hearing, if the Sewer Commission finds that the difference of the estimated wastewater flow from the connected property exceeds the measured water usage by an amount which the Sewer Commission, in its discretion, finds to be significant, it may then order that the property owner be billed upon a wastewater-unit basis and shall pay the costs of doing so. In determining whether the difference is significant, the Sewer Commission shall consider the size of the difference, the estimated sewer usage fees not being billed to the property owner based upon the size of the difference, and the cost to purchase and install the flow meter.

§ 397-12. Other fees.

A.

The Sewer Commission may establish fees, as it deems necessary and appropriate, for applications, permits, licenses, inspection services, as well as for fines and penalties and such other fees as the Commission may establish.

B.

Other fees are itemized in Parts II and III of Appendix A.

## Article VII. Billing

§ 397-13. Party to whom bills issued.

Bills covering the sewer usage fee shall be mailed to the owners (or their designated agent) of the building spaces connected to the Four Corners Sewer System.

§ 397-14. Billing frequency.

Bills will be mailed to all owners on a quarterly basis. The Sewer Commission may revise the billing frequency. If the bill is incorporated into another billing system (for example: the water bill), the costs attributed to the Four Corners Sewer District will be a separate line item.

§ 397-15. New connections.

Usage fees for new connections made to the Four Corners Sewer System within a quarterly billing period shall be based on the actual number of water units, as calculated pursuant to Article VI,

§ 397-16. Billing upon transfer of ownership.

When a transfer of ownership of a building space connected to the Four Corners Sewer System occurs, the previous owner will be billed based upon the final water meter reading. If a final water meter reading is not obtained, the new property owner will be responsible for any unpaid usage or unpaid bills.

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§ 397-17. Abatements.

Requests for abatement of the sewer usage fee must be made in writing to the Sewer Commission. Abatements will be considered only for the current fiscal year. The applicant must reapply for each fiscal year. Abatements are nontransferable. Abatements will be considered for the following reasons:

A.

New connections when plumbing is not complete in dwellings or building spaces. The owner must notify the Sewer Commission when plumbing is complete.

B.

New construction or renovation when a building space is connected to the Four Corners Sewer System but not yet occupied. The owner must notify the Sewer Commission when construction is complete and the occupancy permit is issued.

C.

Vacancies of rental property for longer than three months.

D.

Seasonally occupied building spaces which are customarily occupied for a portion of the year, if the vacancy lasts three months or longer.

E.

Property destroyed by fire or disaster, which makes the structure unsuitable for occupancy.

F.

Water usage which is shown not to have been discharged into the Four Corners Sewer System. This shall not include water usage which would be measured by a second or irrigation meter if one had been installed.

G.

The Sewer Commission may, but is not required to, consider billing usage at lower tiers if there has been abnormally high usage.

§ 397-18. Industrial users.

Whenever an industrial user discharges process wastes, an industrial cost recovery system will be established in accordance with US Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations.

§ 397-19. Delinquent fees.

Collection of delinquent sewer usage fees may be enforced by the Town pursuant to MGL C. 59 and C. 83, § 16.

§ 397-20. Interest and late fees.

The Sewer Commission shall have authority to charge interest and late fees and to change them as necessary.

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§ 397-21

The Sewer Commission may, in any particular instance, waive strict compliance with the application of these regulations.

## Part 3. Regulation of Sewer Design, Construction and Use

### Article VIII. Adoption by Reference

§ 397-22. Standards adopted; modifications.

A.

On April 23, 2018, the Select Board, then acting as the Four Corners Sewer Commission, voted to adopt and file with the Town Clerk the rules and regulations used by the Town of Ayer, entitled "Regulation of Sewer Design, Construction, and Use," subject to modifications to reflect reference to Groton and Four Corners Sewer District as applicable and adaptive to Groton and the Groton Sewer Commission.

B.

The Town of Pepperell's Regulation of Sewer Design, Construction, and Use of public and private sewers as adopted for use in the Town of Groton for the Groton Center Sewer District is hereby adopted for use in the Four Corners Sewer District, by its Sewer Commission. As adopted, it is further made adaptive to the Town of Groton, i.e., where reference in the text is made to "Pepperell" or "Town of Pepperell," it shall mean "Groton" or "Town of Groton"; to "Pepperell Board of Selectman" or "Sewer Commissioners," it shall mean the Groton Sewer Commission or Sewer Commissioners; to the Pepperell Superintendent or Superintendent, it shall mean the Groton Sewer Commission or Sewer Commissioners or the Superintendent acting as an agent of the Groton Sewer Commission, or, as appropriate within the meaning of the text, Superintendent.

C.

The content of Appendix B as in effect shall be the most recent rules and regulations as contained in the REGULATIONS FOR SEWER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TOWN OF PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS document referenced in Appendix B of this document

§ 397-23. Supplemental construction regulations.

A.

Applicants with large-flow permits, may be required, at the discretion of the Sewer Commissioners, to institute water reclamation or recycling technology to limit wastewater discharge to the maximum practical extent.

B.

Wastewater flow meters may be required for all users with 4,000 gallons per day (gpd) flow. Existing users with 4,000 gpd will have a one-year grace period to install a flow meter. Flow meters must meet specifications set by the Sewer Commission.

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C.

All pump stations shall be equipped with a flow meter.

D.

All manholes located in the areas subject to flooding shall have watertight covers. This provision can be waived at the discretion of the Sewer Commission.

E.

The Sewer Commission has the authority to require the removal of any inflow or infiltration (I/I) source from private property. To validate the removal of the I/I source, the Sewer Commission requires the flow from the I/I source to be quantified by an expert in the field of flow measurement prior to mitigation and after the removal of the source. The method of measurement shall be approved by the Sewer Commission prior to performing the service. The property owner will submit notarized notification of the source removal with flow rates in gallons per minute within 10 calendar days of notice by the Sewer Commission. If the property owner fails to submit such notification:

(1)

The Sewer Commission will secure services to perform the flow measurement and source removal work.

(2)

The property owner will reimburse the Sewer Commission for all expenses, loss or damage related to the mitigation of the I/I source, including but not limited to engineering assistance, project management and administration, construction services, and flow measurement.

(3)

The property owner will reimburse the Sewer Commission for all sewer flow and usage costs based on the measured I/I from the date of this notice to the date of removal.

F.

Car washes and laundromats are prohibited within the Four Corners Sewer District.

G.

A property owner is responsible for installation, maintenance, and repair of all sewer lines serving structures on their property, from the structure up to the point the sewer line enters the public way.

Adopted by the Groton Sewer Commission for the Four Corners Sewer District, Town of Groton, Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the 24 day of April 2024

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**APPENDIX A**

**FEE SCHEDULE**

**FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT**

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Effective Date: September 4, 2018

FEE

AMOUNT

AUTHORITY

**PART I. USAGE FEES**

a. Sewer Usage Fee Per Water Unit

Current fees as established and voted by Sewer Commission are available in the offices of the Town Clerk and Sewer Commission, and online at [www.grotonma.gov/sewercommission](http://www.grotonma.gov/sewercommission)

b. Minimum Usage Fee for Billing

Current fee as established and voted by Sewer Commission is available in the offices of the Town Clerk and Sewer Commission, and online at [www.grotonma.gov/sewercommission](http://www.grotonma.gov/sewercommission)

c. Interest Charge

After 30 days from date of billing, the unpaid balance will accrue interest daily at an annual rate of 14%.

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**PART II. OTHER FEES**

1. APPLICATION AND PERMIT FEE FOR BUILDING CONNECTIONS

- a. Residential..... \$150/building
- b. Commercial..... \$400/building
- c. Industrial..... \$575/building
- d. Industrial with pre-treatment required..... \$750/building

2. APPLICATION AND PERMIT FEE FOR SEWER EXTENSIONS, GRAVITY SEWERS, PUMPING STATION AND FORCE MAINS

- a. 0-12 inch ..... \$1.50/foot
- b. 13-24 inch \$3.00/foot..... \$3.00/foot
- c. Pumping Stations ..... \$15.00/gpm capacity

3. LICENSE FEES

- a. Drain Layer’s License .....\$50/year

4. INSPECTION SERVICES

- a. Consultant’s inspection for sewer connections/  
Extensions subject to Sewer Commission’s discretion      Cost of reports and inspectional  
services plus \$50 administrative fee

**PART III. FINES**

1. UNLAWFUL WASTE DISCHARGE

- a. Sump pump connection..... \$100 each, per day
- b. Roof/perimeter drains..... \$100 each, per day
- c. Unauthorized building connection
  - (1) first offense ..... \$250 each, per day
  - (2) second offense..... \$350 each, per day
  - (3) third offense .....\$1,000 each, per day  
with permit revocation
- d. Flammable wastes as  
defined in Appendix C ..... \$1,000 each, per day

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- e. Toxic wastes, industrial process wastes, radioactive or chemical wastes defined in Appendix C ..... \$5,000 each day
- f. Solid wastes and other substances in Appendix C ..... \$500 each day
  
- g. Waste with pH less than 6.5 or greater than 9.0
  - (1) first offense .....\$50 each day
  - (2) second offense .....\$100 each day
  - (3) third offense.....\$500 each day
  - (4) fourth offense .....\$1,000 each day
  - (5) fifth offense.....\$5,000 each day
  
- h. Septage disposal
  - (1) first offense .....\$500/each
  - (2) second offense .....\$600/each
  - (3) continued offense .....\$5,000/each  
with permit revocation

**PART IV. FOUR CORNERS SEWER SYSTEM CONNECTION FEES**

- A. Connection Fee ..... \$8,000 per Equivalent Residential Unit



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**APPENDIX B**

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**FOUR CORNERS SEWER DISTRICT**

Regulations for Sewer Design and Construction

The Town of Groton Four Corners Sewer District regulations in effect shall be the most recent rules and regulations as contained in the REGULATIONS FOR SEWER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TOWN OF PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

.

Reference <http://ma-pepperell.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/133> for the current regulations.

The Town of Pepperell's Regulation of Sewer Design, Construction, and Use of public and private sewers as adopted for use in the Town of Groton for the Groton Center Sewer District is hereby adopted for use in the Four Corners Sewer District, by its Sewer Commission. As adopted, it is further made adaptive to the Town of Groton, i.e., where reference in the text is made to "Pepperell" or "Town of Pepperell," it shall mean "Groton" or "Town of Groton"; to "Pepperell Board of Selectman" or "Sewer Commissioners," it shall mean the Groton Sewer Commission or Sewer Commissioners; to the Pepperell Superintendent or Superintendent, it shall mean the Groton Sewer Commission or Sewer Commissioners or the Superintendent acting as an agent of the Groton Sewer Commission, or, as appropriate within the meaning of the text, Superintendent.

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**APPENDIX C**

**DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN APPENDIX A PART III**

**FLAMMABLE WASTES**

Any gasoline, kerosene, benzene, naphtha, toluene, xylene, ethers, alcohols, ketones, aldehydes, peroxides, chlorates, perchlorates, bromates, carbides, hydrides, sulfides, fuel oil, other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas, and any other substance which is a hazard to the system.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTES**

The wastewater from industrial processes, trade, or business as distinct from domestic or sanitary wastes.

**SOLID WASTES**

Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the wastewater facilities such as, but not limited to ashes, bones, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, cooking oil, grease, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails, and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

Waste water having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty degrees Fahrenheit (150°F)(65°C).

Waste water containing more than twenty-five(25) mg/L of petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oils, or product of mineral oil origin.

Waste water containing floatable oils, fat or grease.

Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. Garbage grinders may be connected to sanitary sewers from homes, hotels, institutions, restaurants, hospitals, catering establishments, or similar places where garbage originates from the preparation of food in kitchens for the purpose of consumption on the premises or when served by caterers.

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Any waters or wastes containing odor producing substances exceeding limits which may be established by the Groton Sewer Commission.

Materials which exert or cause:

- a. Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, Fullersearth, stonedust, limeslurries and limeresidues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate) or containing suspended solids in concentrations greater than 300 milligrams per liter.
- b. Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanningsolutions).
- c. BOD in concentrations greater than 250 milligrams per liter, unusual chemical loxygen demand, or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the Town of Ayer's wastewater treatment works, or which may cause the effluent limitations of the said treatment works' discharge permit to be exceeded.
- d. Quantities of flow, concentrations of wastes or both which constitute a "slug" as defined herein.

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Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the wastewater treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the effluent from the Town of Ayer's wastewater treatment plant cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

Any water or wastes which, by interaction with other water or wastes in the public sewer system, release obnoxious gases, interfere with the collection system or create a condition deleterious to structures and treatment processes.

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**TOXIC WASTES**

Any waters containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any wastewater treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the Town of Ayer's wastewater treatment plant.

Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, and similar objectionable or toxic substances to such degree that any such material received in the composite wastewater at the wastewater treatment works exceeds the limits established by the Groton Sewer Commission for such materials.

Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the Groton Sewer Commission in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.

**WATER PH**

- (a) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 6.5, or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the wastewater facilities.
- (b) Waters or wastes having a pH in excess of 9.0.