

**TOWN OF GROTON**

**Office of the**

**Sewer Commission**

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Commissioners:

James L. Gmeiner, Chair

Thomas D. Orcutt, Vice Chair

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**Sewer Abatement Policy**

**(Adopted March 2, 2022)**

The Sewer Commission has established the following policy with respect to the abatement of sewerage usage for the Center Sewer District and the Four Corners Sewer District. It is the policy of the Sewer Commission to not grant adjustments and/or abatements of sewer usage unless the reason for abatement rests with Town’s sewerage system, metering equipment or other equipment. However, the Sewer Commission does recognize that there are accidental and unpreventable situations where water may or may not enter the sewers and an abatement may be considered.

All Abatement requests must be made in writing on the appropriate form provided by the Groton Sewer Commission.

The Sewer Commission may abate or adjust sewer bills based upon a number of factors, including but not limited to:

* A billing error
* A meter malfunction where testing proves the error
* An uncharacteristic elevated (water) usage during a particular billing period which did not result in water entering the sewer system (e.g. an outside leaky faucet, a burst heating pipe)
* Excessive use of water without use of a second water meter. The abatement will be considered only if it can be demonstrated to the Sewer Commission that a second water meter has been, or will be, installed for subsequent use.
* A toilet or other fixture or device was leaking and the water flowed into the sewer system. An abatement of the sewer charges may be granted by calculating the average use for previous eight (8) quarters and billing excess water units used at a lower tier. The abatement can only be granted where it has been demonstrated that the proper repairs have been made to the toilet or fixture to prevent future excessive use.
* A user installs an irrigation system and was not told by the installer that a second water meter was needed to avoid paying sewer charges. An abatement of sewer charges may be granted by calculating the average use for previous eight (8) quarters. An abatement can only be granted where it has been demonstrated that a second water meter has been installed for future use.

The intent of this policy is to allow a one-time abatement of sewerage charges for the same reason during any five (5) year period. Repeat requests for Sewer Abatements should expect to be denied by the Sewer Commission.

It is the Policy of the Sewer Commission to meter all water uses in all residential, business, commercial, industrial, recreational, and municipal buildings in order to accurately bill for waste-water uses.

Except as set forth above, sewer abatements will not be granted for water or effluent that actually flows into the municipal sewerage system. Sewer abatements are granted at the discretion of the Groton Sewer Commission. To be eligible to receive an abatement, accounts must not have a past due balance.

A fifty ($50.00) dollar administrative charge will be assessed for all Abatements approved.

The Sewer Commission reserves the right to change and/or modify this policy as they deem it to be in the best interest of the Sewer Rate Payers in the Center Sewer District and the Four Corners Sewer District. The Sewer Commission may, in any particular situation, waive the application of this policy.