

West Groton Sewer Study Committee

Report to Groton Town Meeting April 2011

The West Groton Sewer Study Committee was formed by Town Meeting vote to explore the need for centralized waste water disposal options in West Groton Center following preliminary work by a consulting firm that identified the West Groton Village center as an area in potential need of a centralized waste water disposal system. The first action of the committee was to survey property owners in the tentative service area in order to determine existing conditions. A tentative service area was delineated in cooperation with Woodard and Curran, the town's consultant for this project that encompassed western West Main Street, eastern Townsend Road, southern Pepperell Road, Bixby Hill Road, Old Orchard Street, Windmill Hill Road, and St James Avenue. This service area comprised approximately 125 properties.

At a recent Town Meeting, \$50,000 was authorized and allocated and added to funding already in place for the Lost Lake Sewer Project in order to permit field work to be performed in West Groton to identify potential sites for a centralized treatment facility.

Simultaneously, work was performed by Woodard and Curran to determine if West Groton met income criteria to permit application for state/federal grants that would reduce the cost burden to the town and ratepayers for any proposed treatment facility.

The field engineering study and the income determination have been completed.

Findings:

1. West Groton district income levels exceed the limit set for receiving grants; therefore, there are no mechanisms to subsidize this project. Loans are available but would require repayment by ratepayers using the treatment facility or by other repayment mechanism.
2. A suitable site for a treatment facility was found in West Groton in a corner of Cutler Field. This site passed all site and engineering requirements for a treatment facility.
3. Construction estimates without benefit of subsidies indicate that the capital cost and the annual operating expense for a centralized treatment facility greatly exceed current costs for individual

on-site subsurface treatment options, including costs associated with recent advanced individual on-site treatment options.

4. The residents of the proposed district were strongly divided regarding the need for an alternative waste water treatment facility. There appears to be no strong support at this time in the proposed service area or in the Town as a whole for a West Groton central treatment district or facility.

Therefore:

The West Groton Sewer Study Committee recommends that the town discontinue this effort, that the findings of Woodard and Curran as reported in the Comprehensive Waste Water Treatment Document be archived for future use, and that this committee be disbanded - to be re-organized at a later date as conditions warrant.

I would like to join the town in thanking the volunteers who contributed to this work: George Wheatley, Peter Zaiatz, Alison Manugian, and Jason Parent.

George Barringer

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