

What does it mean when my residential property is connected to the sewer system ?

Water
Quality
Harwich



Town of Harwich *Phase 2 Implementation*

2017 Annual Town Meeting — Articles 11 and 12 and Ballot Questions 1 and 2

1. How do I know if I am in a sewer service area?

The immediate focus is on Phase 2 and 3 in the Pleasant Bay Watershed or East Harwich. A plan of the conceptual sewer service area for East Harwich is available on the town website and at the Community Center. About 600 plus properties will be connected in Phase 2 and 450 plus properties in Phase 3.

2. What happens to my existing Title 5 septic system?

Once the house is connected with a new pipe from the house to the sewer in the street, then the existing Title 5 septic system must be pumped to remove all solids and then crushed and filled in with clean fill or removed.

3. What will be buried in my yard to connect to the sewer?

Most installations will have a 6-in diameter PVC pipe installed from the house out to the street connection at the property line. The contractor working for the town to install the sewer in the street will leave a wye connection at the property for the property owner to connect to once the sewer is ready for operation.

4. Who will perform this work? Do I need to hire a contractor?

The property owner will hire a contractor from an approved list by the town of qualified contractors to perform this work. They will prepare a plan, install the sewer connection and decommission the septic system.

5. How long will my property be out of service to complete the sewer connection?

Typically the sewer connection can be installed first and once the sewer in the street is ready for use then the house can be connected to that new pipe and the septic system decommissioned. That switchover should take less than a day.

6. Will I have a wastewater meter? If not, how will my flow be determined?

The amount of wastewater discharged will be based off the home's water meter. There will be no separate wastewater meter at every home.

7. What will it cost me to convert from my Title 5 septic system to a sewer connection?

The town has prepared a brochure entitled "What will protecting our water resources cost?" and it presents the estimated costs for a property connected to a sewer. Typical connection costs acquired from Chatham run \$5,000 to \$7,000 depending on the distance from the house to the street, the amount of re-landscaping required and whether any internal plumbing is required.

8. How will the sewer connection cost be paid?

This cost will be paid for by the property owner. A typical \$7,000 cost to connect using a 15 year loan at 5 percent interest is about \$675 per year.

9. If the sewer goes by my property am I required to connect?

Yes, all property owners adjacent to a sewer will be required to connect within one year of notice that the sewer is available. This is part of the proposed Harwich Sewer Use Rules and Regulations.

10. Will I be required to pay an annual fee for using the sewer?

Yes, and this cost is estimated in the brochure noted in Item 7 above. Based on typical annual use of 70,000 gallons per year of water the estimated annual sewer user cost would be \$510.

11. Will the cost be proportional to the flow I discharge or is it a fixed fee?

Cost would be based on the amount of water use using the water meter and a tier rate schedule similar to paying your existing water bill.

For additional information go to:

· <http://www.harwich-ma.gov>

· <http://bit.ly/HarwichCWMP>

· <http://bit.ly/HarwichWIC>

A wastewater tax calculator is on the
town website at:
bit.ly/HarwichWWCalc