

## RESOLUTION

Community Wastewater System Ordinance Policies  
Town of Westford Selectboard and Planning Commission  
November 1, 2021

WHEREAS, the Town of Westford has, since 2007, explored options to provide solutions to wastewater challenges for the Town Common area; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westford purchased portions of the Jackson Farm property in January, 2018, which property contains land suitable for a community wastewater dispersal (leach) field serving the Town Common area; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization by the Selectboard, the Town has completed a Preliminary Engineering Report that identifies a Preferred Option for construction and operation of a community wastewater system utilizing the Jackson Farm (now Maple Shade Town Forest) dispersal field (the “Community Wastewater System”); and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Town of Westford Selectboard have authorized continued work on the design of the Preferred Option – the Community Wastewater System; and

WHEREAS, a vote at Town Meeting in 2022 may be warranted by the Selectboard to request voter authorization for construction of the Community Wastewater System; and

WHEREAS, through efforts of the Planning Commission and the Outreach Committee, significant public outreach has been carried out, including establishment of a project website, presentations at Westford organizations, social media postings, a Town-wide meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, a community dinner for residents of the prospective service area on August XX, and a survey of property owners within the prospective service area; and

WHEREAS, through these extensive outreach efforts, community members have expressed the importance of understanding the Town’s prospective policies towards system connections if and when the Community Wastewater System is built; and

WHEREAS, a key concern of Westford’s voters, service area residents, and business owners relates to whether and under what circumstances connection to the Community Wastewater System would be mandatory; and

WHEREAS, the expressed preference of a majority of voters, service area residents, and business owners who have attended and participated in the public outreach process, as documented in notes, recordings, and returned surveys, is that connection to the Community Wastewater System be voluntary for service area properties, rather than

mandatory, provided that existing on-site wastewater systems are functioning in a manner consistent with protection of public and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, if and when the Community Wastewater System is constructed, the Selectboard would adopt a wastewater ordinance pursuant to its authority under Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapters 59, 97, and 101; and


WHEREAS, a duly adopted wastewater ordinance would, among other content, govern the terms and conditions of connection to the Community Wastewater System, including conditions under which connection would be voluntary or mandatory; and

WHEREAS, it is the expressed intent of the Planning Commission to advance the proposal for the Community Wastewater System and a voluntary connection policy; and

WHEREAS, at its duly warned meeting on October 18, 2021, the Westford Planning Commission considered a sample draft wastewater ordinance containing language that would implement a policy of voluntary connection to the Community Wastewater System, provided on-site wastewater systems are functioning in a manner consistent with protection of public and environmental health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Selectboard and Planning Commission state their common intention, if and when a community wastewater system is constructed, to advance a wastewater ordinance with a voluntary connection policy for properties within the service area, with provisions for connection substantively equivalent to the wastewater system connection conditions in the sample draft wastewater ordinance, and to allow for the continued operation on a voluntary basis of those on-site wastewater systems functioning in a manner consistent with the protection of public and environmental health.

Signed this 3rd day of November, 2021.



WESTFORD SELECT BOARD CHAIR



WESTFORD PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

Attest: Nanette Rogy  
TOWN CLERK