Support for Falmouth’s Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP)

- **April 2011 Town Meeting** - Passage of Article 17: Funding for Lower Little Pond Sewer and Alternative Demonstration Projects
- **May 2011 ballot vote** - Voters approve funding for Article 17 by a 2-1 margin, passed in every precinct
- **August 2012** - Board of Selectmen unanimously approved Draft Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (DCWMP)
- **November 2012** - Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) found DCWMP “adequate”
- **April 2013 Town Meeting** – Passage of bonding for design and permitting of Lower Little Pond collection system, inlet widening, and other town infrastructure projects.
- **May 2013 ballot vote** – Voters approved this bonding by a 58% to 42% margin
- **November, 2013** – Town Meeting Passed the following Articles:
  - Flow Neutral Bylaw for Little Pond Sewer Service Area
  - Special Act - Reducing Costs to Property Owners in New Sewer Service Areas
  - Eco-toilet Exemption in Little Pond Sewer Service Area
- **January 10, 2014** - Final CWMP declared “adequate” by Secretary of EOEEA
- **February 28, 2014** – Development of Regional Impact approval from Cape Cod Commission

Why are we sewering the Lower Little Pond watershed?

- Little Pond is the town’s most degraded estuary, in the most densely populated part of town
- History of fish kills and odor
- Very small lots (5000 square feet or less), many with cesspools that cannot meet Title 5
- 2001 Wastewater Plan and 2007 Needs Assessment identified this area as having high potential for failed septic systems
- Massachusetts Estuaries Project shows that 100% of the controllable nitrogen from the lower watershed must be removed to restore water quality from 0.84 mg/L to 0.45 mg/L

Profile of Little Pond Sewer Service Area

- Approximately 1450 parcels
- Approximately 1274 single family homes (88% residential)
- 66% (841) second homes/rental
- 34% (433) owner-occupied principal residences
- Water use of year-round and seasonal properties is very similar

For more information, see Water Quality Management Committee website:  
### Financial Help for Homeowners

1. **One-time hook-up costs**: Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment’s Community Septic Management Loan Program. Spread hook-up costs over 20 years at 5% interest. Contact: Kendall Ayers at kayers@barnstablecounty.org [www.barnstablecountysepticloan.org](http://www.barnstablecountysepticloan.org)

2. **Full deferral of betterment payments**: Under Massachusetts law, homeowners 65 years or older residing in their domicile with less than $40,000 in annual income (gross receipts) can defer betterment payments until the sale of the house or settlement of their estate. 8% interest and other criteria also apply. Contact: Falmouth Town Hall, Assessors Department

3. **Property tax + betterments + 50% of water and sewer charges**: Senior Circuit Breaker Property Tax Credit for persons over 65 whose expenses exceed 10% of their yearly income up to certain limits. Contact: massresources.org/circuit-breaker-tax-credit.html or your tax advisor.

4. **Special Legislation**: will allow for betterments to be paid over 30 years instead of 20 years, at 0% interest instead of 2% or higher, in equal amounts [like a mortgage] instead of descending amounts, and in quarterly payments with the regular tax bill instead of once a year.

The Little Pond project is funded by new debt replacing old debt. There is NO increase in the tax levy.

Estimated 100% Betterment for the Little Pond Sewer Service Area

= $25,625 per residential property

April 2014 Town Meeting:

Article 27 will decide what percentage will be paid by the property owner

50% option = $12,812 70% option = $17,938

Betterment Hearing in 2015: property owners will be notified by Certified Mail

Actual betterment is determined AFTER construction is completed in 2017-18, but the amount cannot exceed the cost presented at the Betterment Hearing

### ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COSTS FOR LITTLE POND PROJECT PER HOUSEHOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Estimated Costs</th>
<th>Annualized Avoided Costs</th>
<th>Annualized Sewer Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pump out: every three years @ $300</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New leach field: every 20 years @ 5% ($10,000)</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-time hook up: 20 years @ 5% ($2500 - $4000)</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>$200 - $325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity for grinder pumps:</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer usage charge:</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal without Betterment:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900</strong></td>
<td><strong>$525 - $650</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total with $427: 50% betterment @ 0% for 30 years</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$952 - $1077</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total with $598: 70% betterment @ 0% for 30 years</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1123 - $1248</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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