

August 17, 2015

Dear Homeowner,

This letter is about your septic system and the possibility of your hooking up to sewers.

(Please note that although I am a member of the Town Board, I am sending this letter as a private citizen, much as I sent emails and letters many years ago as the coordinator for the Unsewered Hallocks Mill Homeowners. It's taken a lot longer than I ever thought to be able to convey this news to you — but better later than never.)

In June, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) gave the town permission to issue sewer permits so that certain properties that have access to an existing sewer line could hook up to the town's sewage treatment plant.

You are getting this letter because town records indicate your house may be able to tie into an existing public sewer line.

This letter is to provide you with some basic information about what is involved in being sewerred, either now or sometime in the future. The decision is totally up to you. For more detailed information, please call the Engineering Department at 962-5722, ext. 220.

What will hooking up cost?

There are two cost factors: the ongoing yearly operation and maintenance (O&M) cost and the one time hook up cost.

- For 2015, the yearly O&M cost for most homeowners is \$592.
- The hook up cost varies and depends on many factors, especially the distance from your septic tank to the sewer lateral. To get a cost estimate, you need to contact a local plumber. (If any of your neighbors also meet the criteria for being sewerred, you might get a better price from a plumber if several homes are involved.)

About Sewer permits

The DEP's decision to allow the town to issue sewer permits was based on the fact that for a 12 month period, the flows into the sewage treatment plant did not exceed the plant's current permitted flow level. That decision could be reversed, however, if, going forward, flows to the plant exceed the permitted level. Flow levels are dependent on the number, duration and intensity of rain events. And, while the town currently has an application pending before the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) that would allow a higher flow level, at this time, we do not know when that application will be approved, or what the new permitted flow level will be.

What is important to know is that once a sewer permit has been issued by the town, historically, in practice, the DEP has considered the permit valid even if it is used years after it was issued. That means that if you are not sure you want to hook up to sewers now, it may be in your long term interest to consider obtaining a sewer permit now and holding on to it in the event you want to hook up some time in the future.

Applying for a sewer permit

The charge for a sewer permit is \$50. The permit application requires the signatures of both the property owner and a Westchester County licensed plumber. However, once a permit has been issued and is on file with the town, you are free to change plumbers; all that is required is having the town change the name of the plumber on the original permit. That means you can apply for a permit now and hold off on the decision whether to hook up. The key is getting the permit now while the DEP is allowing them to be issued and avoiding being caught in another possible moratorium in the event flow levels exceed the current permitted level and/or there is a delay in the town receiving the higher flow level permit from the DEC.

I hope this information has been of help.

Sincerely,

Susan Siegel