

Lake Parker Association
Meeting July 20, 2013

Reasons FOR Extending the Sewer Line around Lake Parker

- Property values of Lake Parker property owners depend upon high water quality.
- Leach fields are not working properly in the dense soils of the Lake Parker area. Testing of groundwater levels in June and July of 2013 demonstrated that ground water is entering leach fields rendering them ineffective. The testing revealed groundwater within 6"-10" of the surface in four locations around the lake. This means household effluent is moving directly to the lake even if we there is no noticeable a odor. Testing also revealed e coli entering the lake, a health hazard.
- New "engineered" septic systems are very expensive, and are also subject to failure. Many of the lots do not have sufficient space for them.
- All septic systems eventually fail. Replacement is costly--\$20,000-\$40,000--with payment in a lump.
- If Lake Parker property owners must absorb the total cost of the loan, each household would pay a total of \$800-\$900 per year, including the \$130 maintenance cost (a higher estimate than on the fact sheet) the total cost over 30 years would be \$24,000-\$27,000, which is less than the cost of putting in a new system all at once in most cases. (The attendees hope that town residents who do not live on Lake Parker will agree to share the burden. All town residents benefit from good water quality in Lake Parker.)
- The grant would cover 45% of the cost, but this could be the last time the USDA grant will be available as the program may be ending.
- Interest rates are at a historic low, which may not last. (I don't think anyone said that, but it is implied in the quoted loan interest rate of 2.5%.
- The State of Vermont is moving in the direction of stricter shoreline and lake protection regulations as required in other states, which could force sewage treatment in a few years at higher cost.