

## Sewer Extension to Lake Parker Proposed

To Glover Residents,

When plans were made in 2007 to extend the Glover sewer system to West Glover Village as the only possible remedy for the failed community septic system, the Selectboard asked the engineers to design the improvements so that the sewer line could later be extended to the homes and camps around Lake Parker. The Selectboard, the engineers, and a group of Lake Parker property owners could see that the septic systems of the 100 homes and camps, many on small lots, almost all on soils considered unsuitable for individual septic systems, were posing a growing threat to Lake Parker water quality and public health.

In the fall of 2012 the Selectboard asked Leach Engineering to provide the town with preliminary plans and cost estimates, and discussion of extending the sewer was initiated at the end of town meeting in March 2013. In the intervening months we have been communicating with lake property owners and the Lake Parker Association concerning the details of the project. We have concluded that there is sufficient support for the project to bring it before the voters of Glover.

Funding for the project would be through a USDA Rural Development grant and loan program. Total estimated cost for the sewer extension is \$2,800,000 of which 45% or \$1,260,000 would be in the form of a grant, and 55% or \$1,540,000 would be in the form of a 30 year loan at 2.5% interest. Annual payments on the loan, including principle and interest, would be \$73,800. Although the main beneficiaries of the project are Lake Parker property owners, who are Glover taxpayers but not Glover voters, the loan must be approved by the registered voters of Glover.

The Selectboard is proposing that the loan payments be split between Lake Parker property owners in the project area and all Glover property tax payers. We believe that although Lake Parker home and camp owners are the main beneficiaries, all Glover taxpayers will share in the benefits enough to make a 50/50 split reasonable and fair. Why do we believe this?

Based on assessed value, almost 40% of property in Glover is owned by non-residents. The greater part of this is lake camps and other seasonal homes. Glover's lakes have provided a boon to Glover residents in the form of property taxes that have helped support the Glover School, Lake Region High School, the Glover Library, and road maintenance and other town services while asking relatively little in return. Seasonal home owners and their guests and renters are also an important addition to the local economy benefiting local businesses as well as builders and other service providers.

Extension of the sewer line to Lake Parker and its positive impact on lake water quality will certainly serve to maintain and, over time, enhance property values around the lake.

Under this proposal, each Lake Parker property owner will be paying about \$369 per year for 30 years as their share of the sewer project debt and the portion of the debt shared by all town property tax payers would result in an increase of about \$27.10 on a home valued at \$100,000. Lake Parker property owners would also incur this tax increase. We think this represents a good investment of municipal tax dollars and would help make the project affordable for Lake Parker property owners.

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**We have scheduled an Informational Meeting on the Lake Parker sewer project for Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 7 PM at the Glover Town Hall.**

The vote on the sewer bond will be held, by Australian ballot, on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Polls will be open from 10 AM to 7 PM.

The question on the ballot will be, by law, restricted to whether voters are in favor of, or opposed to, the bond issue.

The question of whether and how the loan payments will be shared among Lake Parker property owners and all Glover property tax payers will be made by the Selectboard, taking into consideration the input we receive from both groups at the Informational Meeting on Sept. 12 or in writing.

We hope the year-round and seasonal residents of Glover will give this project careful consideration.

Thanks for reading,

The Glover Selectboard

Jason Choquette, Chairman

Mike Ladd

Jack Sumberg