

TOWN OF ACTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEWER ACTION PLAN
MAY 1995



I. ORGANIZATION

A. Structure

1. Sub-Committee of the Board of Selectmen
2. Co-Chairs Selectmen Nancy Tavernier and Dore'Hunter
3. Steering Committee
4. Task Forces
5. Staff support

B. Task Forces

1. Communication
2. Technical review
3. Site identification and acquisition
4. Financial

II. TASK FORCE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

A. Communication

1. Press releases and interviews
2. Clearinghouse for citizens concerns
3. Coordinate dissemination of information
3. Record keeping for Sewer Committee
4. Preparation of Town Meeting and Ballot information
5. Hold informational meetings

B. Technical Review

1. Collect and review existing studies
2. Determine need for new "study" covering technical issues not previously studied (e.g. generic study for multiple component plants of varying capacities)
3. Study new Title V regulations
4. Communicate with DEP on technical issues
5. Estimate scope of need and areas for sewerizing, short and long term
6. Determine land area requirements for any alternative considered
7. Examine all alternatives for sewerizing (e.g. large central plant, multiple

small plants, effluent into Assabet River, effluent sub-surface, on-site rehabilitation, in-ground leaching systems, mounded absorption systems, sand filter systems, gravity sewers, grinder pump systems, vacuum sewer systems, community leaching fields, no action).

C. Site Identification and Acquisition

1. Negotiate closure of Mill Corner issues
2. Review town-wide map of soils areas acceptable for sub-surface discharge.
3. Compile a list of parcels, vacant and non-vacant, within the good soil areas
4. Develop a proposal for land acquisition
 - a. purchase
 - b. lease
 - c. privatization
 - d. mineral rights
 - e. takings

D. Financial (Suggest these Task Force responsibilities be assigned to Finance Committee in lieu of at-large citizen group)

1. Review previous Town Meeting votes
2. Determine availability of previously voted sewer appropriations
3. Estimate costs to town and to users of various options under consideration.
4. Estimate burden to homeowners, taxes, betterments, and fees.
5. Investigate all methods of local financing (e.g. tax levy, privatizing, betterments, enterprise sewer districts, user fees)
6. Investigate state and Fed. grants, loans
7. Consider year-end spending and/or free cash for needed studies to commence Mill Corner project and/or any other study needs
8. Tie-in policy recommendations (e.g. credit to homeowners who have replaced systems, discount to initial tie-in costs vs. later tie-in, reserving capacity for future growth)

III. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

- A. BOS (2)*
- B. School Committee (1)*
- C. Staff members: town (1)* and schools (1)*
- D. FinComm (1)*

- E. BOH (1)*
- F. Planning Bd. (1)*
- G. Citizen-at-large*

* (9) Steering Committee members

G. Representatives from SARC, West Acton Planning Comm., Kelley's Corner Planning Comm., South Acton Planning Comm., Chamber of Commerce, Relators, Septage Haulers, Mill Corner, Builders, Citizen's Coalition, ACES, LWV

H. Citizens at large and from affected areas

IV. SEWER ACTIVITY BUDGET. (May need to request small appropriation from Fall Town Meeting to cover committee expenses, a more significant appropriation for additional studies).

- A. Study(s)
- B. Staff overtime or temporary help
- C. Legal advice (sewer district)
- D. Public relations
- E. Committee administrative expenses

V. TIMETABLE

1995

June	Advertise for Committee members (bypass VCC)
July	1st Meeting hosted by BOS Complete Mill Corner negotiations Form Task Forces Begin technical review
August	Continue meetings Publicize activities
September	Develop specific plan for Mill Corner
Oct. - Dec.	Special Town Meeting, if needed, for Mill Corner Project necessary approvals
Oct-Dec	Identify specific locations for small solutions for Kelley's Corner, schools, South Acton area outside of center, or for

any other alternative determined to be feasible

1996

Jan - Dec.

Build support for proposals

Series of Town Meetings to vote appropriations as site(s)
and solution(s) are identified and proposed for acquisition
Special elections for debt exclusion overrides, as needed

Nancy Tavernier

Dore' Hunter

5/23/95, 6/1/95 revised

Adopted BOS 6/6/95