

# HISTORY OF SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT

The Amherst Woods neighborhood of 189 homes was developed in 5 phases beginning in the early 1980s. The 121 homes in the earliest phases of development had septic systems. The 68 homes built during the last phase of development in the late 1990s, were connected to town sewer.

In 2010, a group of Amherst Woods residents formed a **Sewer Committee** and began meeting to discuss extending town sewers as was originally laid out in the Sewer Extension Master Plan of 2004. The Sewer Committee members included: Sigurd Nilsen, Peggy Matthews-Nilsen, Svetlana Prokofiev, Mindy Domb, Amy Vickers, Mary Streeter, Bart Hollander, Kathleen Teagno, Donald David, Victor Lesser, and Cate Zolkos.

The primary focus of the Sewer Committee was the fact that septic systems of 2/3 of the homes in Amherst Woods were reaching the end of their expected 25-30-year life span. Some of these homes with septic systems were built on lots that were too small to support a second septic field when the original septic field failed. Additionally, Amherst Woods is located above the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer that supplies drinking water to 60% of Amherst town residents. The potential environmental impact of such a large number of failing septic systems in a short span of time was of great concern.

During 2011, the Sewer Committee met with the Town Manager, John Musante, testified before the Select Board and submitted letters from Amherst Woods residents asking the Town to implement the 2004 (and updated 2011) Sewer Extension Master Plan. This Sewer Extension Master Plan recommended extending sewers to the remainder of the Amherst Woods neighborhood.

The Sewer Committee successfully argued against the Town charging a Betterment Fee for the new sewer line. Members pointed out these fees had never been charged before in Amherst and would set a precedent that would potentially create financial hardship for other Amherst neighborhoods in the future. Instead, the Sewer Committee proposed funding the project out of the Town's Sewer Enterprise Fund.

In October 2011, the Select Board voted to move forward with the Sewer Extension Project in Amherst Woods, using the Town's Sewer Enterprise Fund to finance the project. The Sewer Extension Project in Amherst Woods began 3 years later, in 2014.

## TIMELINE

**Phase 1:** began in August 2014; was completed in April 2017.

**Phase 2 - Part A,** expected to be completed in Fall 2019.

(Streets include: Wildflower Drive from Larkspur Drive to Station Road, Trillium Way, Foxglove Lane, Indian Pipe Lane and Alyssum Drive)

**Phase 2 - Part B,** expected to be completed in Fall 2019.

(Streets include: Station Road, Iduna Lane and Cortland Drive)