

North Stonington

A Discussion of Public Sewers and Economic Development

Introduction:

The intent of this document (and meeting) is to guide a general discussion regarding public sewers and economic development in the Town of North Stonington. The aim is not to make any decisions about public sewers and economic development, rather to better understand the topic of public sewers and economic development in North Stonington. Therefore, there are no right or wrong answers or perspective, only thoughts and ideas that will help to better understand the topic of public sewers and economic development. This process of discussion and understanding will allow us not only to identify opportunities and challenges related to public sewers and economic development, but will also provide insight and direction for moving forward—the why and how of moving forward is unknown at this time.

Public Sewer Areas:

It is evident that the Town of North Stonington has invested much time, effort, and money into the topic of public sewers and the extension of public sewers from Stonington along the southern portion of Route 2 from I-95 to the traffic circle (Phase I), along portions of Route 627 (Phase II), Route 49 (Phase III), and Route 184 (Phase IV)—based on a Draft Sewer District Map. Considering these areas and the decisions that led to these areas will help us think through the opportunities and challenges related to public sewers in North Stonington and how sewers relate to economic development.

The Discussion:

This discussion must be open, honest, and non-confrontational. Therefore, it is critical that all of us involved be open and honest about our thoughts and perspectives. In addition, we must also respect the thoughts and perspectives others and recognize that there are no right or wrong answers, only thoughtful considerations. So for the next two hours, let us leave our personal interests, egos, politics, and differences at the door and approach this discussion from the perspective of a community and what is plausible and best for North Stonington.

The Big Picture Discussion:

Before we consider very specific questions related to ongoing discussions and plans for public sewers, I was to discuss some general questions:

1. Does North Stonington need to provide public sewers? If so or if not, why?
2. What benefits will providing public sewers provide to North Stonington?
3. Can economic development occur in North Stonington without public sewers?

The Focused Discussion:

Now, I would like engage in a discussion around on the following more specific questions:

1. Why was this general area (Route 2 south of the traffic circle, Route 627, Route 49), and Route 184) selected as suitable for sewers?
2. What opportunities will public sewers provide in each of these areas?
 - i. Phase I - Route 2
 - ii. Phase II - Route 627
 - iii. Phase III - Route 49
 - iv. Phase IV - Route 184

3. What challenges exist (hurdles to cross or barriers to be removed) to providing public sewers in these areas create?
 - i. Phase I - Route 2
 - ii. Phase II - Route 627
 - iii. Phase III - Route 49
 - iv. Phase IV - Route 184
4. What challenges (or concerns) are created if public sewers are extended into these areas?
 - i. Phase I - Route 2
 - ii. Phase II - Route 627
 - iii. Phase III - Route 49
 - iv. Phase IV - Route 184
5. Why has North Stonington not moved beyond the planning and study phase and initiated implementation of extending public sewers? Is it:
 - i. Cost?
 - ii. Concerns about future development?
 - iii. Possible opposition?
 - iv. Other?
6. Have other areas in North Stonington been considered for public sewers?
 - i. Route 2 north of the Traffic Circle?
 - ii. Route 2 near the casino?
 - iii. The area around Exit 93 off I-95?
 - iv. Others?

7. Does North Stonington want economic development (to attract commercial investment and development to North Stonington)?
 - i. If yes, why?
 - ii. If not, why?
 - iii. Other?
8. What are the potential outcomes if North Stonington moves forward and provides public sewers in the areas discussed above?
9. What are the potential outcomes if North Stonington does not provide public sewers in the areas discussed above?
10. Are there any alternatives to providing public sewers or not providing public sewers? Is so, what are they?