

# Town of Colchester Clean Water Newsletter

## Malletts Bay Sewer

- Colchester Selectboard authorized a public vote
- Project recommended by the Colchester Planning Commission
- Project is funded by grants and user fees

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to remove human waste bacteria from Malletts Bay, eliminate failed septic systems, preserve and protect Malletts Bay for future generations, and ensure the community's vision for the Bay.



### BACKGROUND

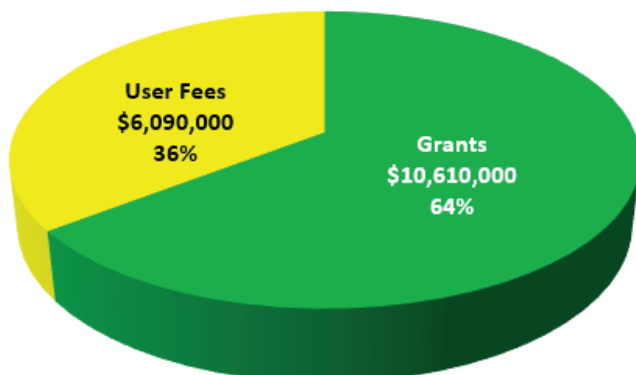
Old and failing septic systems in Malletts Bay threaten water quality. The Town can require failed systems to be replaced, but only with “best fit” systems that often do not meet standards for proper treatment.

### COST & FUNDING

The sewer project will be funded solely by grants and user fees from the 289 properties to be served by this system. The projected cost of this project is \$16.7 million. **No property or local option taxes will be used.**



*Failed “best fit” replacement septic system in Malletts Bay less than one year after installation.*



Following a 4 year, \$2 million water quality study funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a detailed alternatives analysis by the Colchester Planning Commission, the following conclusions were reached:

**Projected Average Residential Cost:** Approximately \$993 per year, based upon the average water consumption of these properties.



*Example of an archaic septic system.*

**TIMELINE:** With approval, construction could begin in the spring of 2024 and be completed by late fall in 2026.



The sewer service area includes West Lakeshore Drive from Prim Road to Bayside, East Lakeshore Drive, and Goodsell Point, a total of 289 properties.

### **HOW WILL THIS PROJECT AFFECT ME AS A PROPERTY OWNER?**

- The sewer project will be funded solely by grants and user fees from the 289 properties within the proposed service area. No property or local option taxes will be used.
- All town residents outside the project area will have no cost associated with this project.
- The project will remove human waste bacteria from Malletts Bay.
- The project will preserve and protect Malletts Bay for future generations.
- The project will ensure the community's vision for the Bay.

1. The majority of the parcels along the shoreline of Malletts Bay have significant area and environmental constraints and cannot support properly functioning septic systems.

2. Over the past 12 years, there have been a total of 17 documented failed septic systems in Malletts Bay. This failure rate is 3-4 times higher than any other area of Colchester.

3. Professional water quality engineers and scientists, and the Colchester Planning Commission, have concluded that the **most effective and efficient way** to address human waste bacteria in Malletts Bay and protect the public health is to construct a municipal sewer.

### **OTHER MALLETT'S BAY WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS:**

In addition to addressing human waste bacteria through the installation of sewers, the overall Malletts Bay Initiative includes improvements to land use planning/zoning and stormwater management to reduce phosphorus, nutrients, and other pollutants caused by stormwater runoff. To learn more about these additional water quality efforts contact:

Bryan Osborne  
bosborne@colchestervt.gov  
802-264-5625

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

<http://colchestervt.gov/344/ballot-items>  
<https://colchestervt.gov/3021/-Clean-Water-Newsletters>