

Town of Hingham Sewer Rules & Regulations
Public Hearing 4/28/22

Synopsis of Proposed Changes

The Hingham Sewer Commission is proposing to update the Town's Sewer Regulations. The current regulations were last promulgated on April 5, 2016.

The main changes being proposed include the following.

1. Require minimal standards for private sewer system that wish to connect to the Hingham municipal (public) sewer system.

PURPOSE: All sewer systems need to minimize the amount of infiltration (unwanted groundwater leakages) and prevent inflow (improper discharges) from getting into the sewer system. Sewer ratepayers in Hingham are charged for the volume of wastewater we convey to the MWRA and to the Town of Hull for treatment. Infiltration & Inflow add greatly to the cost which is then spread across all ratepayers. The Commission proposes a common standard (to seek and remove infiltration & inflow) for any private sewer system connected to our public sewer system as our own standard which is to actively seek and remove these same unwanted and costly flows from our public sewer system.

2. Require an inspection of a property's build drain (the connection between the structure and the municipal sewer system) at time of the property's transfer of title (change in ownership).

PURPOSE: Periodic inspection of a property's building drain to identify possible infiltration and inflow is a best practice. The Commission proposes to have the same inspection schedule at the time of title transfer for sewer wastewater as currently exists for septic wastewater with septic systems.

3. Identify the process for properties that border the Hingham Sewer District to connect to the municipal sewer system.

PURPOSE: There is a provision for properties that border within 200 feet of the Hingham Sewer District to connect to our municipal sewer system. Where the process involves the MWRA as well as Hingham, the Commission would like to identify the procedure for greater clarity.

4. Relocate the sewer use fees and the few selected examples from the sewer regulations to a dedicated fee schedule document.

PURPOSE: A comprehensive fee schedule that also includes listing of all possible sewer connection fees and iterations will greatly assist the public in knowing what it will cost to connect to the Hingham municipal sewer system, which is currently composed of the Hingham Sewer District and the Weir River Sewer District. Because the two sewer districts have different costs, the Commission believes the need for a breakdown of all costs into a stand-alone comprehensive document.