

Town of Lunenburg

SEWER COMMISSION

DPW Building
520 Chase Rd.

Lunenburg MA 01462

978-582-4160 ext. 8, FAX 978-582-4152

Office Hours: Mon ~Fri. 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Carl Luck, Chairman
David MacDonald, Vice-Chairman
Mike Nault, Clerk
Butch Bilotta, Member
Troy Daniels, Member
Jack Rodriqenz, DPW Director
Barbara Lefebvre, Business Mgr.

NOTICE OF MANDATORY INSPECTION

April 3, 2015

This notice is to inform you of an upcoming Building Inspection Program in the Leominster Road area from West Street to Oak Avenue at Northfield Road and Massachusetts Avenue area between Sunnyhill Road and Arbor Street, and to ask for your cooperation. The Town of Lunenburg has initiated a program to reduce the amount of rainwater (inflow) entering the sewer system. Inflow comes from sources such as roof gutters, yard and driveway drains, floor drains and **sump pumps** that are connected to the sewer system. These connections are not allowed under the Massachusetts Building and Plumbing Codes and the town's Sewer Use Regulations.

The flow contributed to the sewer system by these sources is clean water and does not require treatment. However, when this clean water enters the sewer system, it may contribute to sewer backups and overflows and is also needlessly treated at the Leominster Wastewater Treatment Plant. Through this program, sources of inflow will be identified and removed. When these sources are removed, the quantity of flow entering the Lunenburg sewer system will be lowered and associated costs will be reduced. The most likely sources of inflow are sump pumps and floor drains located in the basements of homes.

We need to identify these sources so they can be redirected away from the sewer system. Building inspections will be conducted by the Town's wastewater consultants, Weston & Sampson, **starting April 13, 2015**. The inspections can be scheduled from Monday through Saturday, between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please schedule your building inspection in advance by calling (978) 582-3054. If an appointment is not scheduled by April 13, 2015, door to door inspections will be conducted with no further notification.

These inspections, lasting about 10-15 minutes, will be performed by a two-person team. All persons performing building inspections will have proper photo identification. The team will evaluate the basement or equivalent lowest level of each building to determine if any of the common sources of inflow may be connected to the sewer system. The exterior of each building will also be checked for potential inflow sources. Once the investigation is complete the homeowner will receive a report detailing any inflow sources found at the home.

Article IV.1.G-J of the Lunenburg Sewer Use Regulations allows the Sewer Commission or their duly authorized representative to perform these inspections and to also impose penalties on those homeowners who will not allow entry or refuse to remove any illicit connections. An excerpt from the Regulations is on the back of this notice.

The Town of Lunenburg will require every homeowner to participate in the Building Inspection Program, whether by scheduled appointment or not. If you have any questions or would like to set up a building inspection appointment that is convenient to you, please call our wastewater consultant, Weston & Sampson at (978) 582-3054.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this important matter.

Very Truly Yours,

Carl Luck
Chairman, Lunenburg Sewer Commission

BUILDING ACCESS REGULATION (Excerpted from Town of Lunenburg Sewer Use Regulations of 9/10/13)

Article IV – Administration

IV-1 General Powers of Commission

- G. The Commission has the authority to:**
- 1. Inspect all public and private residences for violations of the regulations, which may include sampling and testing of internal plumbing, building drains, building sewers or service connections, pumps and grinder pumps, grease traps and all other structures and conduits designed or used for the purpose of collecting, treating or disposing of wastewater and storm water;**
 - 2. Require owners to repair or disconnect services which violate the regulations;**
 - 3. Require owners to pay for all work in connection with repairs or disconnections on their service connection; and**
 - 4. Assess civil penalties if owners remain non-compliant with these regulations.**
- H. No owner, occupant, or other person shall refuse, impede, inhibit, interfere with, restrict or obstruct entry and free access to properties, including within buildings, by the Commission or duly authorized employee or representative of the Town, bearing proper credentials and identification, where inspection is sought at reasonable times, with or without prior notice, in order to assure compliance with applicable by-laws, statutes, codes and/or regulations.**
- I. While performing inspections on private properties referred to in paragraphs G and H above, the Commission or duly authorized employee or representative of the Town shall observe all safety rules applicable to the premises reasonably established by the occupant and the Town shall hold harmless the occupant against claims of personal injury to Commissioners or Town employees or damage or loss to Town property unless such injury, loss or damage is due to negligent failure of the occupant to maintain safe conditions upon the premises or other negligence or deliberate act by the occupant.**
- J. An owner's refusal to grant permission of access shall be a violation of these regulations and will be subject to civil penalty.**

Article VI – Penalties

VI-1 Civil Penalties

- H. Failure to disconnect or redirect sources of improper discharge shall result in a Sewer Inflow civil penalty of \$500 per month until the violation has been removed and verified by the Commission.**
- I. Failure to permit entry to premises for the purpose of inspection shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$50. Each day until access is permitted shall be deemed a separate offense.**
- J. These regulations may be enforced through non-criminal disposition procedures of G.L. Chapter 40, Section 21D and Section Article X, Section 3 of the Town's General Bylaws, or any other means allowed by law.**