

Update for GBPA on Septic Systems

On December 14, 2006 at a Special Town Meeting an ordinance entitled “On site Sewage Disposal Systems” was approved. This ordinance will effect all resident of Westbrook. Highlights of this new regulation are:

- 1) The Director of Health has the right to inspect On- Site Sewage Disposal Systems (which will be referred as Septic Systems in the following).
- 2) No new residential building will be constructed without an approval to construct a Septic System.
- 3) Building conversions(to allow continuous occupancy/winterization) are permitted only after documentation that the septic system has been pumped out in the last five (5) years and is neither a malfunctioning or failed system.
- 4) Building conversions are not allowed unless steel tanks in the septic system are replaced with those complying with code.
- 5) Septic Systems must be pumped out and inspected once every five years by an approved septic tank cleaned /installer.
- 6) Repairs to the system must be done 30 days from the date of notification to the town.
- 7) Inspections are reported to the town by the cleaner for incorporation in the town data base.
- 8) The Director of Health may require more frequent pump outs. More frequent pump outs may be required for undersized septic tanks or cesspools.
- 9) If systems fail or if scheduled maintenance is not preformed a permit to discharge may be revoked.
- 10) The Director of Health shall establish a schedule for maintenance of septic systems and individual homeowners will be notified if they haven’t been pumped out in five years.
- 11) Cleaners will notify the Director of Health the dates properties will be pumped out.

A great deal of [additional information](#) for understanding and maintaining septic systems and is available from the Town’s web site. In the future we will offer suggestions for maintaining a healthy septic system as a reminder that septic systems must be pumped out.