



# **Restoring & Preserving Lake Health Through Local Septic System Ordinances**

**NH LAKES Congress, June 2023**

**Bayard Tracy  
Pam Walton**

**Spofford Lake Association and Chesterfield Conservation Commission**



A woman in a dark waders and yellow gloves is wading in a marsh, holding a long metal pole. In the background, another person wearing a blue jacket and an orange beanie is on a boat. The scene is set in a marshy area with tall grasses and trees.

# The Problem

Cyanobacteria Blooms  
Excess Nitrogen  
Excess Phosphorus  
Low Dissolved Oxygen

**A Toxic Stew on Cape Cod  
Human Waste and Warming Water  
New York Times | January 1, 2023**



# Process

**COMPLETE:** Watershed Management Plan

**EDUCATE:** On the goal of reducing current phosphorus loading and preventing future loading from development

**DEFINE:** Establish a lake zoning district within 500 feet of the Lake shoreline

**CREATE & IMPLEMENT:** A “Town Health Regulation ... pertaining to wastewater disposal systems in the Spofford Lake District”



# Actions and Conclusions

- 1) Properties surrounding Spofford Lake are about 30% of Chesterfield's total property assessment
- 2) Health Ordinance was approved November 2020
- 3) Of 312 properties, 90% have complied or are in the process
- 4) Town administration requires designated & responsible individual(s) and adequate budget appropriation:
  - ❖ Creating administration procedures is time consuming
  - ❖ Costs decline as improvements are made
- 5) Reaction from the Spofford Lake community has been very positive



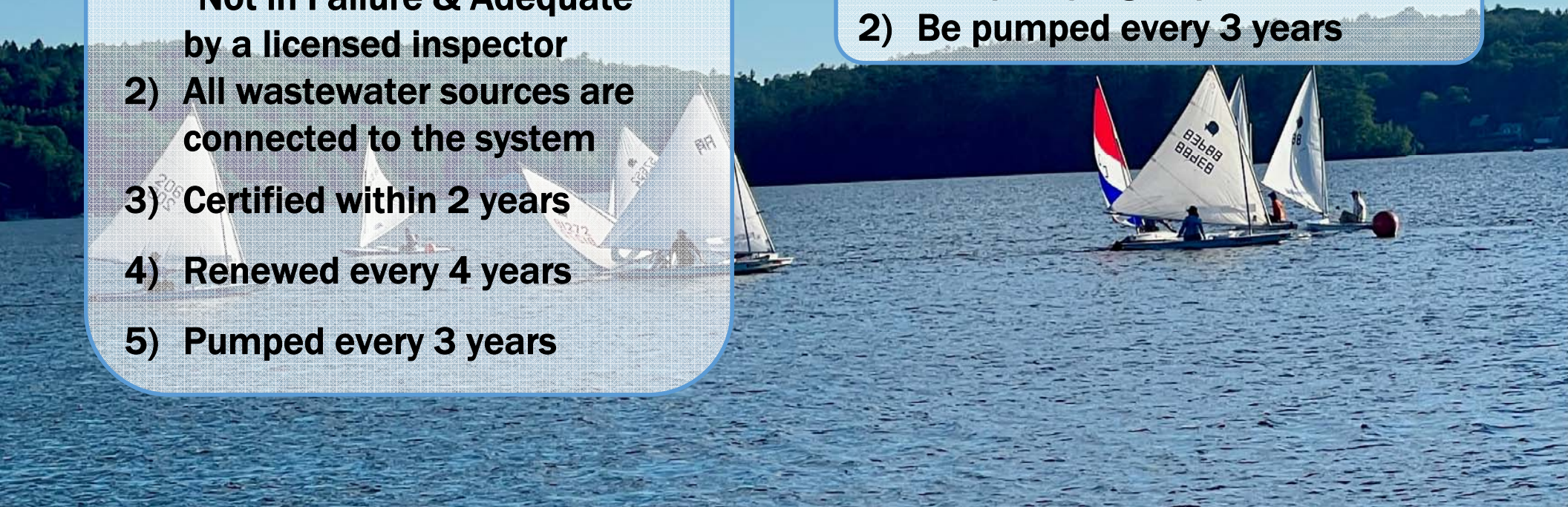
# Requirements for Existing Septic Systems

## No DES Approval On File

- 1) Inspected and certified as “Not in Failure & Adequate” by a licensed inspector
- 2) All wastewater sources are connected to the system
- 3) Certified within 2 years
- 4) Renewed every 4 years
- 5) Pumped every 3 years

## DES Approval On File

- 1) Follow any ongoing inspection and pumping requirements
- 2) Be pumped every 3 years





# Requirements for a New Septic System

- 1) System is in failure**
- 2) Number of bedrooms has increased**
- 3) System cannot be certified as adequate**
- 4) Property is sold or transferred and no valid operation system is on file at NH DES**



# Recommendations

- 1) Use science and your watershed management plan to demonstrate need
- 2) Educate town officials and residents
- 3) Start with Chesterfield as a model
- 4) Plan your implementation steps

## CONTACT INFORMATION

[WWW.SPOFFORDLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.SPOFFORDLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG)

BAYARD TRACY: [BFTRACY143@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BFTRACY143@GMAIL.COM)

PAM WALTON: [PAWALTON4@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PAWALTON4@GMAIL.COM)

TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD: 603.363.4624