

# SUNAPEE SEPTIC REGULATIONS

Elizabeth Harper  
Lake Sunapee Protective Association

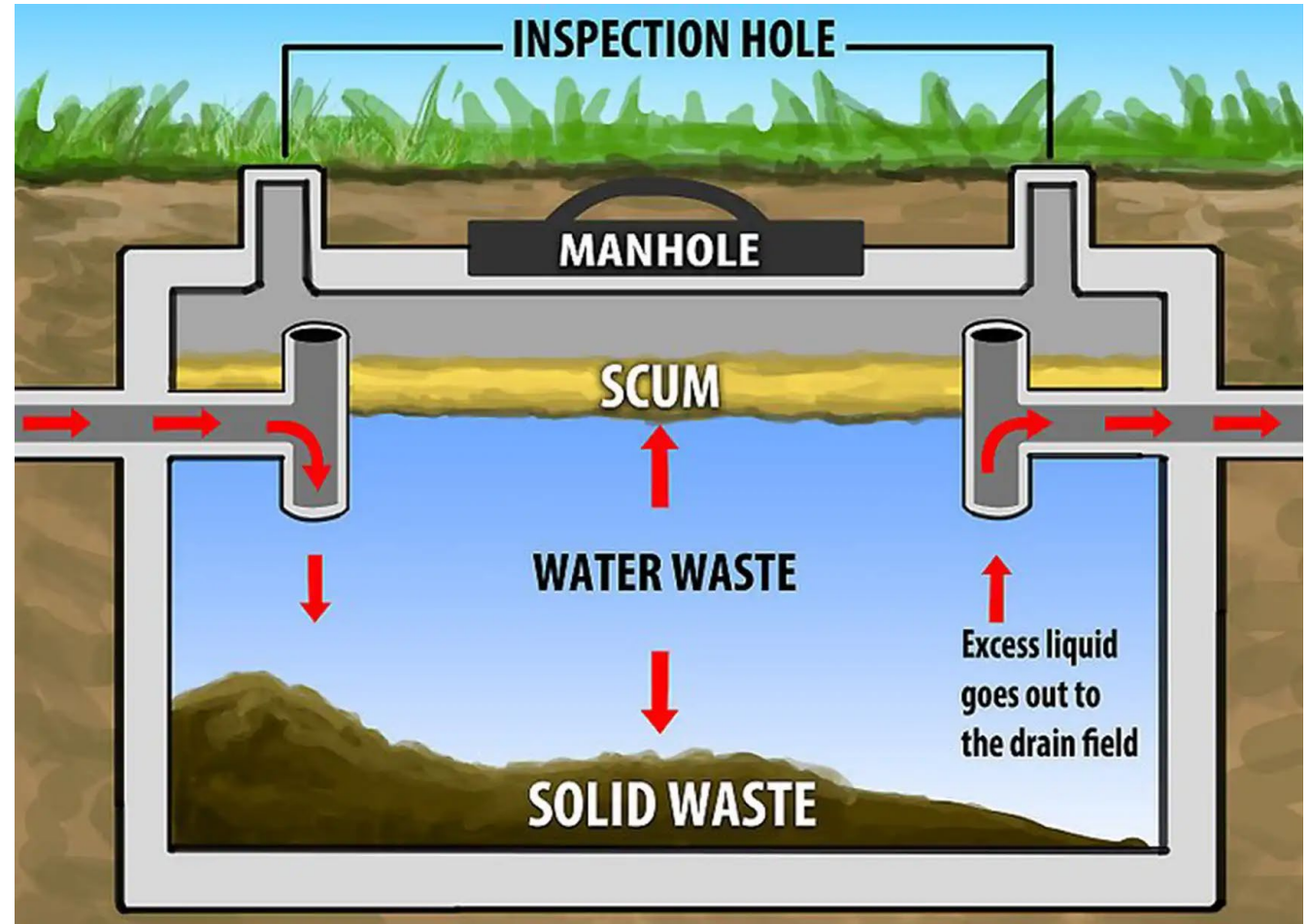


LAKE  
SUNAPEE  
PROTECTIVE  
ASSOCIATION  
**LSPA**



# SUNAPEE SEPTIC REGULATIONS

1. Why regulations were needed
2. How we got started
3. Who we engaged
4. The process we followed
5. Lessons learned





# OUR MISSION

LSPA, founded in 1898, is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity of the Lake Sunapee region, especially its lakes and watersheds, through education, research, and collaborative action.





# WATERSHED COMMITTEE

# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



DK Water Resource Consulting LLC



STONE ENVIRONMENTAL  
100% EMPLOYEE OWNED



LSPA

*Devoted to the Environmental Quality  
of the Lake Sunapee Watershed*

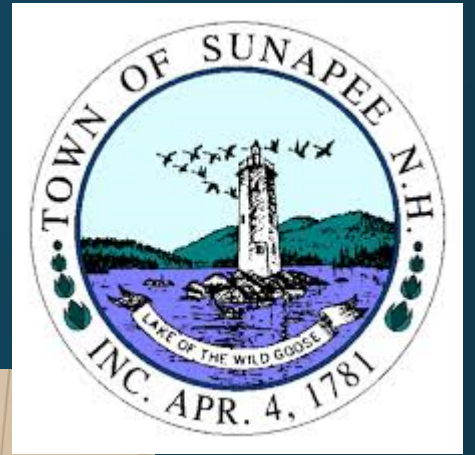
Lake Sunapee Watershed Management Plan



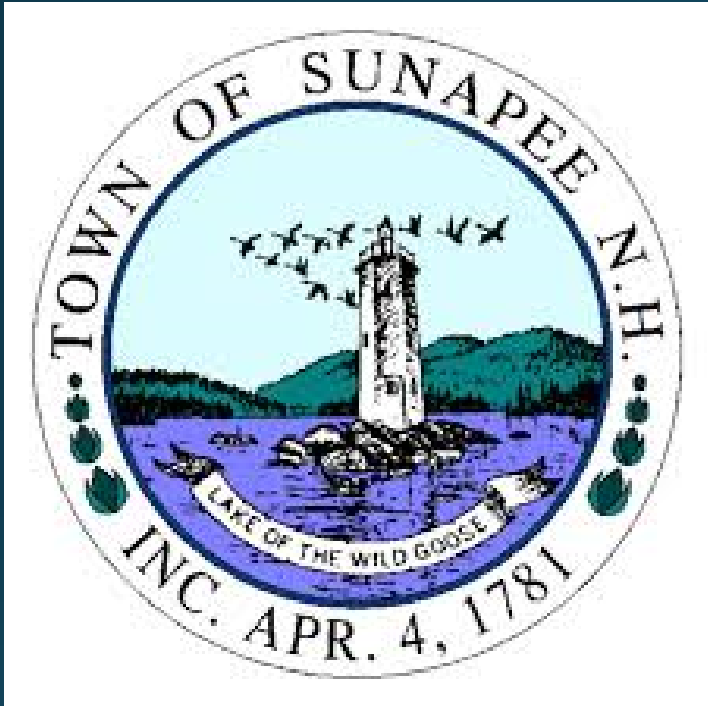
March 2020



# LEARNING FROM OTHERS AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



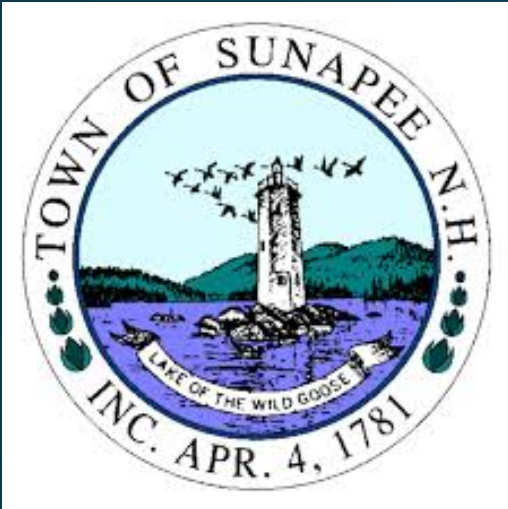
# SUNAPEE'S REGULATIONS



## Applicability :

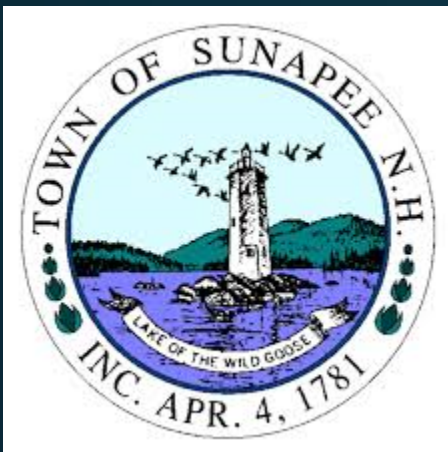
- Private septic systems located wholly, or part within the Shoreline Overlay District, (within 250 feet of lakes & ponds over 10 acres in size and fourth order streams)
- All commercial food preparation facilities within the Town of Sunapee on a septic system.

# SUNAPEE'S REGULATIONS



- All developed properties with septic systems in the Shoreline Overlay District in the Town of Sunapee shall be pumped a minimum of *once every three years.*
- In cases where a septic tank or pump chamber has not been pumped out in the three years prior to the adoption of this regulation, such systems shall be pumped out *within one year of the effective date of this regulation.*





## POINTS TO CONSIDER EARLY IN THE PROCESS

- Administrative burden
- Geographic extent
- Consequences for non-compliance?
- Exceptions?

# PROCESS – RULE OR ORDINANCE?





# HEALTH OFFICER

Authority: Health Officers NH RSA 147:10 grants municipal health officers, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen (NH RSA 147:1), authority to adopt regulations that will ensure that wastewater disposal systems shall not be a nuisance or injurious to public health.





# COMMUNICATING THE WHY



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE TOWN MANAGER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14  
10AM  
AT THE TOWN HALL

# PUSHBACK AND CHALLENGES

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Anti regulation

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Expense for homeowners

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Administrative burden

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Compiling records of existing systems

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Penalties

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Education is enough

# Lessons learned

- Involve all stakeholders early and often – especially those who will be implementing the policy
- Learn from towns who have already enacted similar regulations – don't reinvent the wheel
- But also recognize that the culture of each town is unique
- Make sure the community has opportunity for input, discussion and education
- Provide support to town employees and boards
- Know the process and timeline



# NEXT STEPS

Working with neighboring towns in the watershed to expand the policy throughout the watershed



# QUESTIONS?



[www.lakesunapee.org](http://www.lakesunapee.org)

Elizabeth Harper

Elizabeth@lakesunapee.org





# HOW IS IT GOING?

- Administrative process has been smooth
- Some exceptions have been granted
- Many people have happily complied and provided their documentation
- Several issues have already been detected as a result of the ordinance
- Town representatives have met to discuss proactively addressing the need to expand water treatment facility capacity



# Exceptions

## Disclaimers & notes:

- 1) The waiver system is generally designed for 2 or fewer persons on a year round basis or seasonal use by no greater number of persons than allowed by the construction approval document or estimated by the Town for non-state approved systems.
- 2) Waivers shall not be granted for any commercial use or short term rental type properties.
- 3) In no case shall a septic tank be pumped less than once every 6 years.
- 4) In the case where a pretreatment system is used that requires a maintenance agreement and/or periodic inspection by the manufacturer, the home owner is required to keep the periodic manufacturer inspection current and provide a copy of each inspection record.
- 5) Generally, a state approved system less than 10 years old will not require a septic inspection. State approved systems greater than 10 years old but less than 20 years will require a site visit. If a site visit warrants further examination, an inspection will be requested prior to approval. State approved systems greater than 20 years old, or have no State approval, regardless of age, will require an inspection by a Certified Septic Evaluator. A copy of an inspection report will be accepted.

### **Authority: Health Officers**

NH RSA 147:10 grants municipal health officers, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen (NH RSA 147:1), authority to adopt regulations that will ensure that wastewater disposal systems shall not be a nuisance or injurious to public health.

### **General Purpose and Intent**

- 1) Protect the quality of the surface waters of Lake Sunapee, which is the major public water supply for the Town of Sunapee
- 2) Protect the quality of ground water in the lakes, ponds and Sugar River in the Town of Sunapee
- 3) Protect public health through prevention of human contact with sewage and related pathogens
- 4) Prevent increased nitrogen and phosphorus accumulations and related pathogens from entering the lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and aquifer recharge areas
- 5) Provide a proactive approach towards septic systems posing higher risk and significance of failure within the Shoreland Overlay District.