

Sewer Project Information for Acton
Obtained by Daniel Kenn

1. **Description:** System covers roughly 10% of the town. It has a capacity of 250,000 gallons daily. There are a total of 10 pump stations as much of the treated area is below grade. The breakdown of coverage by properties is roughly 10% business and 90% residential including the school system. The breakdown by discharge is roughly 30% business, 50% residential and 30% school system.
2. **Costs:** The initial estimated costs for the system were \$18 million. After several town meetings with changes in design & expansion of project the final estimate came in at \$25.1 million. The contractors stayed on budget and actual cost was roughly the same as estimated. The construction started in June of 2000 and was completed in February of 2002.
3. **Operation & Oversight:** The Board of Health oversees & manages the contract with a company called Wooded & Curran. They take care of all aspects of the system including all maintenance & repairs and monitoring. The cost is \$480-500 thousand per year. The cost for each user per betterment unit is roughly \$1,000 per year.
4. **How Project Was Financed:** The project was funded primarily by users based on betterment units. The town did finance \$2.5 million for future expansion. The town also funded the school districts portion which was \$5.5 million. The funding was primarily covered by the state revolving fund loan program. The betterments charged to each user were based on units. For residential a 3 bedroom single family home was equal to 1 unit. A 2 bedroom home or condo was equal to 2/3 unit, etc. For commercial users one betterment unit was equal to 4,000 square feet of buildable space. In other words, if you had an 8,000 square foot property with a 4,000 square foot building, the betterment was equal to the total potential buildable space, not just the existing building. 1 betterment unit cost each user \$12,311.52 for this project. Eventual hook-ups to the system ranged from \$3-4 thousand.
5. **Selling The Project To Town:** Aside from the usual initial concerns and a period of about 2 years the selling was relatively easy as most of the costs were paid for by the users.